Soredemo Machi ha Mawatteiru

それでも町は廻っている

通称"それ町"

石黒正数
Ishiguro Masakazu

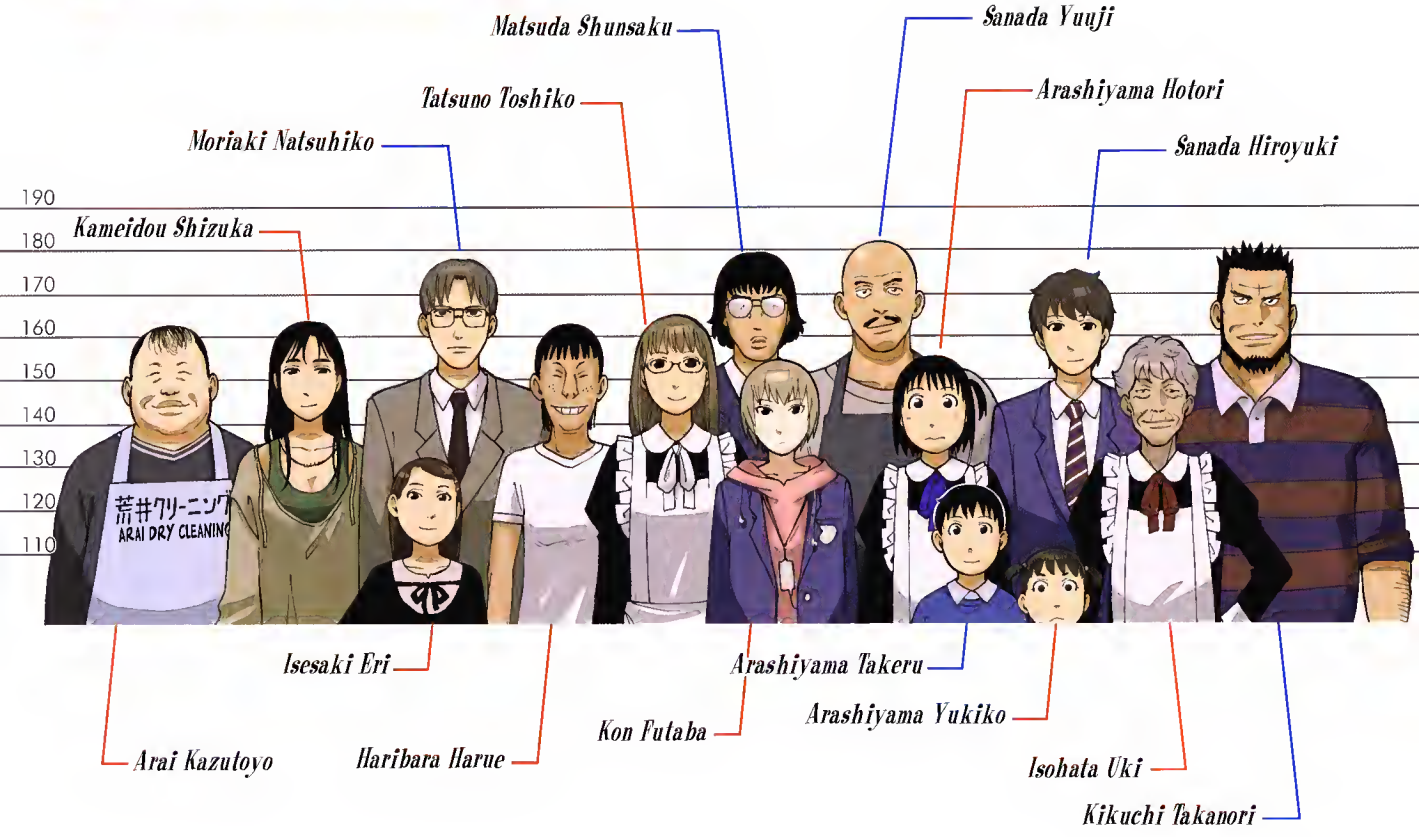
YOUNG KING COMICS

soredemo machi ha mawatte iru

presented by
masakazu ishiguro

and yet the town moves

MAJOR CHARACTERS



YOUNG KING COMICS

通称"それ町"

それでも町は回っている

AND YET, THE TOWN MOVES

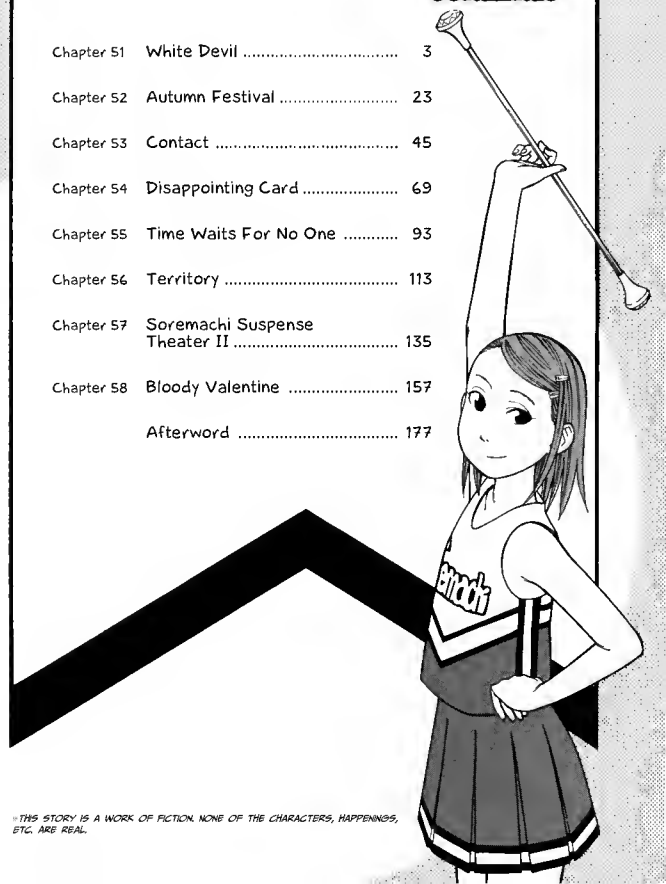
7

石黒正数

ISHIGURO MASAKAZU

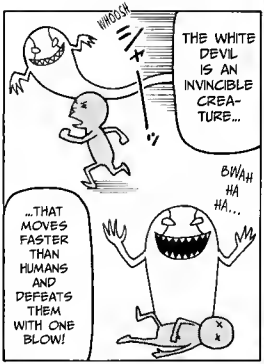
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 51	White Devil	3
Chapter 52	Autumn Festival	23
Chapter 53	Contact	45
Chapter 54	Disappointing Card	69
Chapter 55	Time Waits For No One	93
Chapter 56	Territory	113
Chapter 57	Soremachi Suspense Theater II	135
Chapter 58	Bloody Valentine	157
	Afterword	177

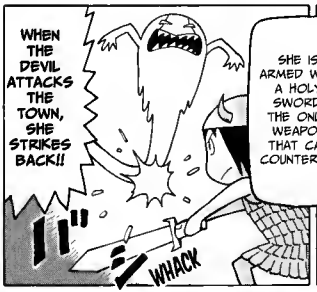


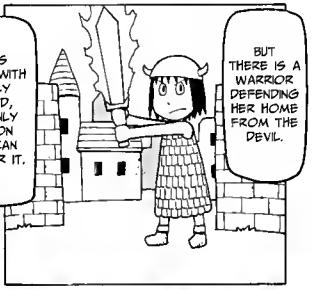
THIS STORY IS A WORK OF FICTION. NONE OF THE CHARACTERS, HAPPENINGS, ETC. ARE REAL.

CHAPTER 51
WHITE DEVIL


WHOOSH
THE WHITE DEVIL IS AN INVINCIBLE CREATURE...
BWAH HA HA...
...THAT MOVES FASTER THAN HUMANS AND DEFEATS THEM WITH ONE BLOW!

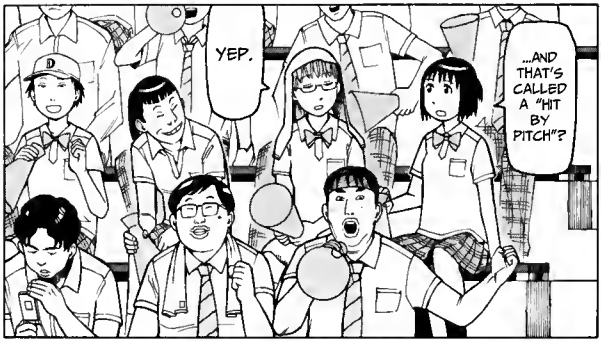
...FOR ATTACKING THE TOWN.
THE WHITE DEVIL HAS BUILT THREE TOWERS...

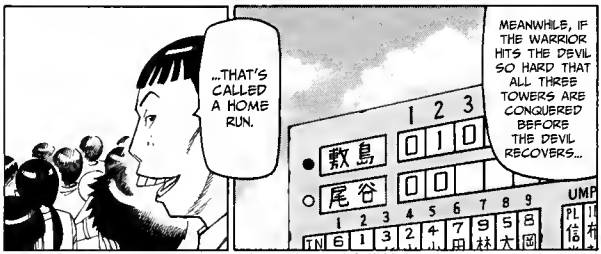

WHEN THE DEVIL ATTACKS THE TOWN, SHE STRIKES BACK!!
WHACK


SHE IS ARMED WITH A HOLY SWORD, THE ONLY WEAPON THAT CAN COUNTER IT.
BUT THERE IS A WARRIOR DEFENDING HER HOME FROM THE DEVIL.

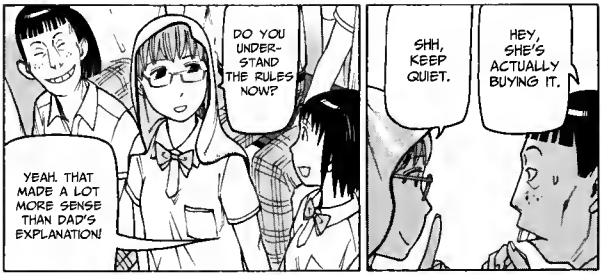
...SHE ATTACKS THE TOWERS!!
WHILE THE DEVIL IS UNABLE TO MOVE...

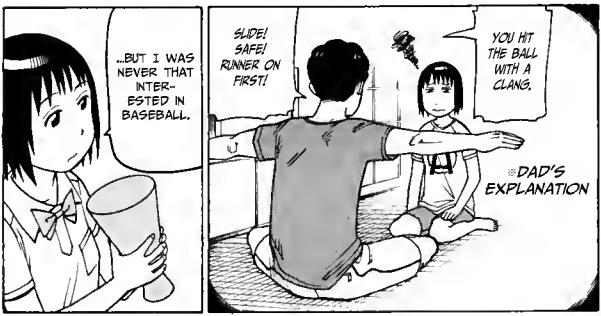
...THE WARRIOR IS ON HER OWN!
AFTER THAT...
...FOR THE NEXT WARRIOR WHO WILL DEFEND THEIR TOWN.
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE MUST LEAVE THE HOLY SWORD...
ALSO...
...WHILE THE WARRIOR IS HOLDING THE HOLY SWORD, SHE'S PROTECTED BY A HOLY LIGHT...
...SHE WILL RECEIVE A WARM WELCOME.
IF THE WARRIOR CONQUERS ALL THREE TOWERS AND RETURNS HOME BEFORE THE WHITE DEVIL CAN CATCH HER...
THE WARRIOR CAN USE THIS CHANCE TO HEAD FOR THE TOWERS.
OUCH
...SO, IF THE DEVIL ATTACKS, IT WILL BE INCAPACITATED.
CHOMP
ガブー
OW!




...THAT'S CALLED A HOME RUN.
MEANWHILE, IF THE WARRIOR HITS THE DEVIL SO HARD THAT ALL THREE TOWERS ARE CONQUERED BEFORE THE DEVIL RECOVERS...
1 2 3
敷島 0 1 0
尾谷 0 0
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
UMP

TEAMS ON SCOREBOARD: SHIKIJIMA, OYA

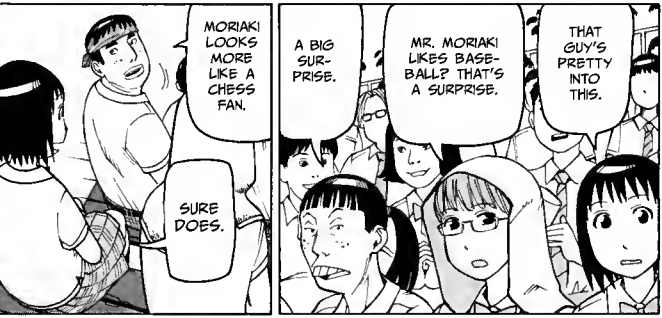

DO YOU UNDERSTAND THE RULES NOW?
YEAH. THAT MADE A LOT MORE SENSE THAN DAD'S EXPLANATION!
SHH, KEEP QUIET.
HEY, SHE'S ACTUALLY BUYING IT.

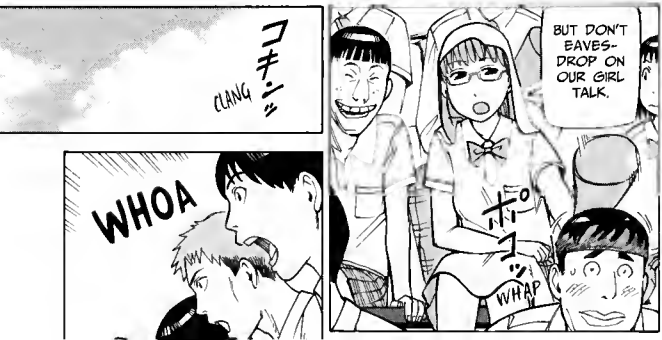

...BUT I WAS NEVER THAT INTERESTED IN BASEBALL.
SLIDE! SAFE! RUNNER ON FIRST!
YOU HIT THE BALL WITH A CLANG.
DAD'S EXPLANATION

I DON'T PARTICULARLY LIKE BASEBALL MYSELF...
TRUE... HEY! KEEP YOUR LEGS CLOSED.
NOT THAT THIS IS ANY FUN TO WAAAATCH...

THUMP
ドン
OOOYAAA HIIIIIGH—!
THUMP
THUMP
PAH-PA-RAH
PA-PAH
NOBODY CHEERS FOR THE PING PONG CLUB. WHY DOES THE BASEBALL TEAM GET SPECIAL TREATMENT...?
BEATS ME... TRADI-TION?
SO HOT... WHY DOES THE ENTIRE STUDENT BODY HAVE TO CHEER FOR THEM?
THUMP THUMP
ドン
OOOYAAA HIIIGH!
HOW CAN THE CHEER SQUAD EVEN STAND TO SHOUT IN THIS HEAT...?
OOOOO—
YAAA—
HIIGH!

KNOCK IT OUT OF THE PARK, NAKAJIMA!!
IT'S NAKAYAMA, MR. MORIAKI.


MORIAKI LOOKS MORE LIKE A CHESS FAN.
SURE DOES.
A BIG SURPRISE.
MR. MORIAKI LIKES BASEBALL? THAT'S A SURPRISE.
THAT GUY'S PRETTY INTO THIS.

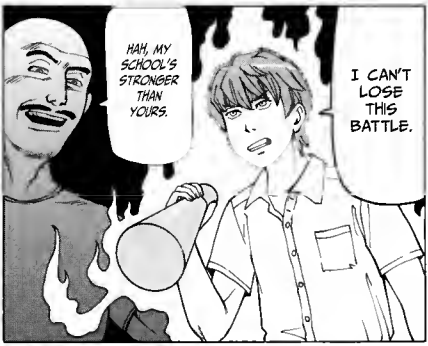

コキーン
CLANG
WHOA
BUT DON'T EAVESDROP ON OUR GIRL TALK.
WHAP

OH MY GAWD !!
OH!!
OH!
WHY WOULD YA SWING AT THAT?!!
WHY DA ACCENT, EH?
WAT ABOUT YOU, KID?
AND YOU.
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT? I HEARD A CLANG, BUT IT WAS NO GOOD?
HE HIT A POP FLY THAT WAS CAUGHT.
WE'VE CAPTURED THE ENEMY GENERAL—
HUH?

I WAS STARTING TO UNDERSTAND THE GAME, BUT THEN YOU ADDED NEW CHARACTERS.
?
WHO'S POP FLY? THE WARRIOR'S RIVAL...?
HEY, ARASHIYAMA-SAN.
DOES SANADA-KUN LIKE BASEBALL?
IGNORING
CLAP CLAP
ポコパコ
パコポコ
CLAP CLAP
GOOOOO!
HE'S NEVER MENTIONED IT IN THE 16 YEARS I'VE KNOWN HIM, BUT HE'S CHEERING HARD...
MAYBE HE LIKES BASEBALL.
EXCELLENT. THEN TIME TO LEARN ABOUT BASEBALL.
THWACK
THWACK

THEN WHY ARE YOU CHEERING SO HARD? SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?
HUH?

MAAAAAAAN! I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A FAN OF BASEBALL!
NAH, I'M NOT.

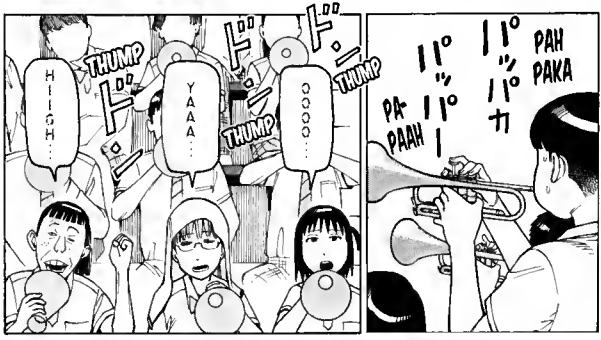

HAH, MY SCHOOL'S STRONGER THAN YOURS.
I CAN'T LOSE THIS BATTLE.

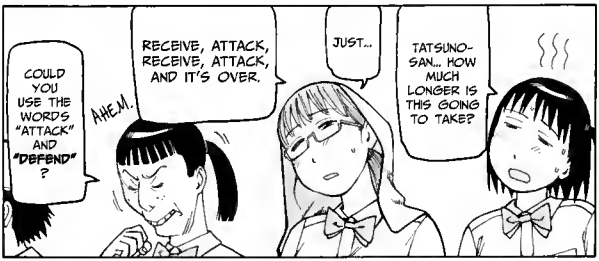
WE'RE PLAYING AGAINST MY OLD MAN'S HIGH SCHOOL.

THAT'S ONE BIZARRE PROXY WAR...

SO THIS IS A FATHER-SON SHOWDOWN! EXCITING!!

YEA
YEA
YOU'RE OUT!


HIGH...
YAAA...
OOOO...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
PAH PAKA
PA-PAAH

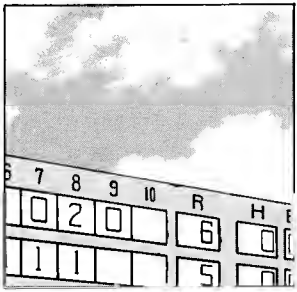

COULD YOU USE THE WORDS "ATTACK" AND "DEFEND"?
AHEM.
RECEIVE, ATTACK, RECEIVE, ATTACK, AND IT'S OVER.
JUST..
TATSUNO-SAN... HOW MUCH LONGER IS THIS GOING TO TAKE?

AND ON THE OFF CHANCE THAT THEY MAKE IT TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP, WE'LL HAVE TO PAY FOR THEIR EXPENSES.
THAT'S RIGHT.

I JUST REALIZED SOME-THING.
IF WE WIN TODAY, WILL WE HAVE TO CHEER AT THEIR NEXT GAME?

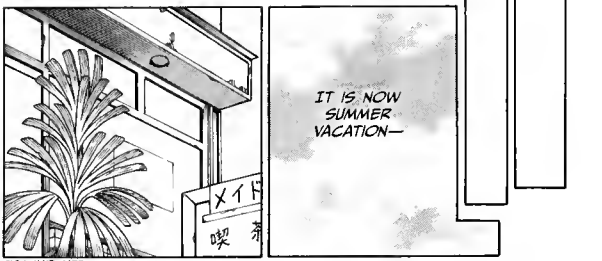
.....
LOSE! LOSE! LOSE!
L—

WHAT?!


6 7 8 9 10 R H
0 2 0 6 0
1 1 5 0

HOM-ER! HOM-ER!
IGA-RASHI !!
KNOCK IT OUT OF THE PARK, IGA-RASHI!!!
THE GAME'S ALMOST OVER. HANG IN THERE!
IT'S SO HOT... I JUST WANT THIS GAME TO END...
CLANG
キンッ
THEY'RE GOING TO EXPECT A SQUEEZE HERE!!
AH—! AH!!
ファン
CHEER

...REC-
OG-
NIZE...
THERE'S ANOTHER WORD I DON'T...
SQUEEZE?
SOUR!!
DING
ピーン
ドキドキ
BADUMP
QUIZ
1) VINEGAR
2) SOUR
3) ACID
4) SQUASH
Question 1!! What does 酢 (su) mean in English?
Too bad!!
BZZZZ
ブー
Now for your penalty!!
SHRIEK
THE CORRECT ANSWER WAS 1) VINEGAR.



SIGN: MAID CAFE...

DON'T BE SO HARD ON THEM. IT'S SUMMER.
YOU'RE TAKING THEIR SIDE...
HOW CAN YOU IGNORE YOUR STORES AND JUST DRINK BEER?!
GEEZ—! YOU STINK!! AND YOU EVEN BROUGHT A TV!
WELL, OYA HIGH ISN'T PLAYING.
SO IT'S BORING.
AREN'T YOU INTERESTED IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP, HOTORI?
すわわ
POUR
THE FUNNY THING IS, AS SOON AS I KNEW THEY WOULD LOSE, I FELT DISAPPOINTED...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT... YOU WERE CHEERING FOR THEM TO LOSE.

BUT THE CHAMPION-SHIP IS STILL FUN TO WATCH?
DID YOUR OLD HIGH SCHOOLS LOSE IN THE REGIONAL STAGE?
YEP.
NO WAY.
WELL, THERE'S MONEY ON THE LI—
SHH!
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THIS CAFE'S TURNED INTO A HAVEN FOR GAMBLING!
EXCUSE ME, WE'RE GOING OUT FOR LUNCH.
IT WON'T LAST LONG!!
DO YOU HAVE NO RESPECT FOR SPORTS?!
YOU'RE BETTING ON HIGH SCHOOL BASE-BALL?!

AFTER LEARNING ABOUT BASEBALL THIS SUMMER...
...I HAVE TO QUESTION THE IDEA TO USE THE SAME STAGE FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL GAMES.
STAGE? ARE YOU TALKING FROM A CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE?

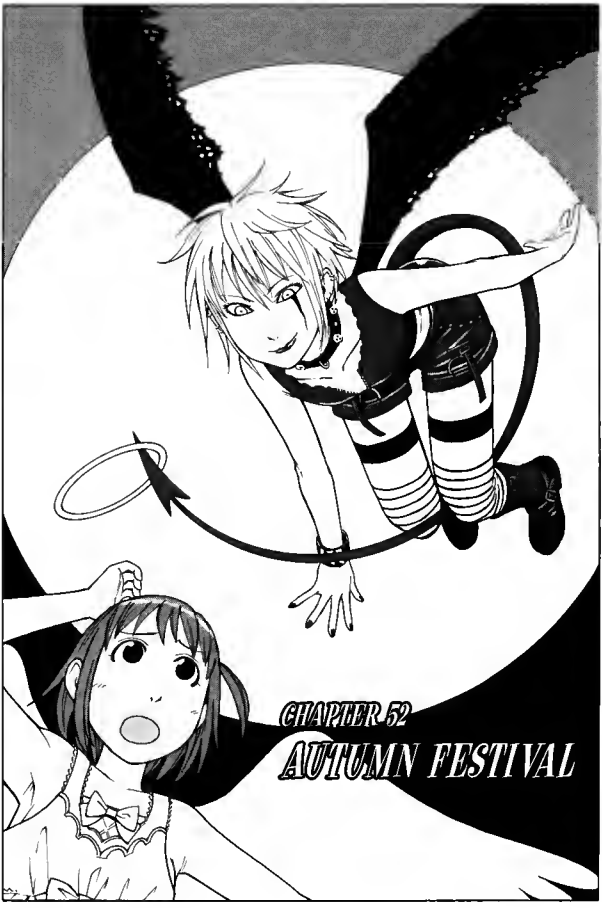
IT WOULD BE MORE FUN TO WATCH IF THE STAGES GOT HARDER, LIKE IN VIDEO GAMES.
HARDER AND HARDER

SO THE CHAMPION-SHIP WOULD BE ON A STAGE LIKE THIS!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS NO RESPECT FOR SPORTS!!

IT WOULD BE MORE INTERESTING IF EACH FIELD WAS DIFFERENT.
スカ
WHIFF
HEY, SHE'S MAKING FUN OF BASEBALL.
PEEK
チラ
チラ
PEEK
IF YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO LIKES BASE-BALL... I COULD GO WITH THEM.
I HAVE THESE NPB TICKETS THAT THE NEWSPAPER GAVE US...
TH-THAT REMINDS ME—
NPB: NIPPON PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL
WHY WOULD I GO WATCH BASEBALL WITH A BIG GORILLA IN THIS HEAT?!
WELL, ASAI'S A BIG FAN.
OH—
スカ
WHIFF

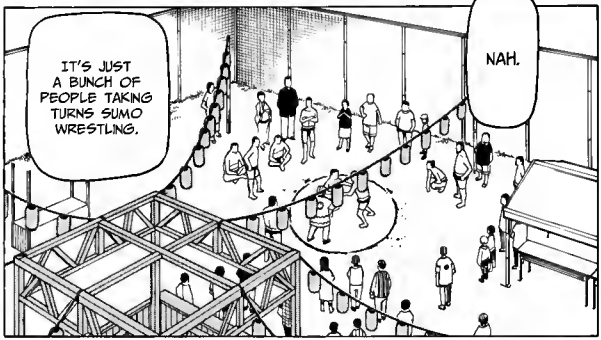
IF THEY ROLLED A DIE INSTEAD OF HITTING A BALL...
UM...
SO... I WAS THINKING...
HUH? NO, YOU'RE WRONG! I'M NOT INTERESTED IN BASEBALL, EITHER!!
I'M NOT TOO BIG ON IT...
SO YOU'RE A BASEBALL FAN? THAT'S A SURPRISE—
THAT WOULD MAKE IT MORE BORING. YOU WOULDN'T NEED ANYONE ON DEFENSE.
スカ
WHIFF
AND IF THEY ROLL A SIX, THEY GET THREE POINTS.
THEN THEY COULD ADVANCE BASES ACCORDING TO THE DIE!
YES! YESSSS!!
THREE STRIKES —!

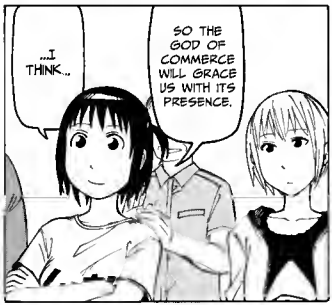
CHAPTER 51 / END

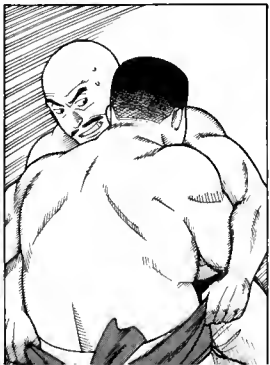

CHAPTER 52
AUTUMN FESTIVAL

BON DANCE: A FOLK DANCE PERFORMED DURING THE OBON HOLIDAY. THE SPECIFIC DANCE VARIES BETWEEN REGIONS.

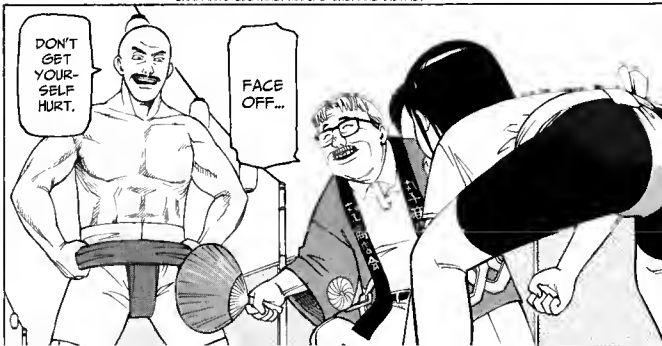
LANTERN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE

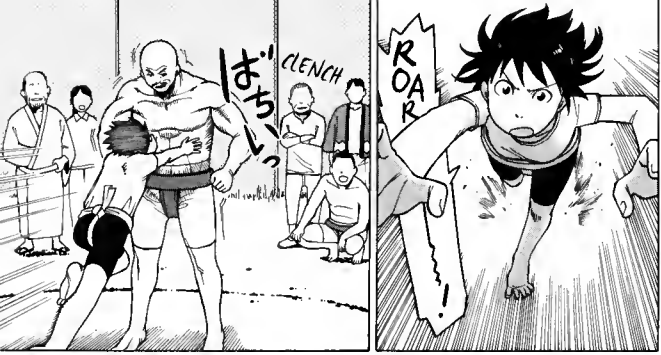


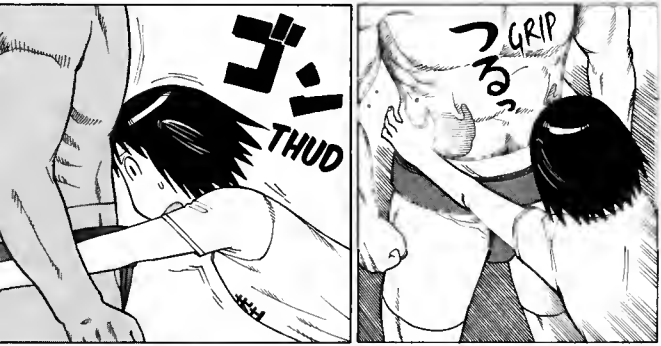




CHAIRMAN'S CLOTHING: MARUKO SHOPPING DISTRICT

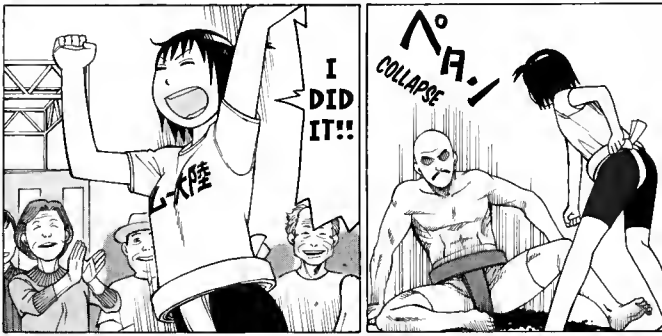






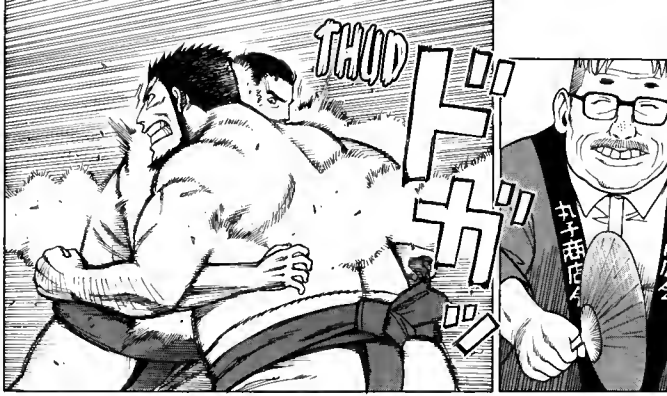
SHIRT: CONTINENT OF MU

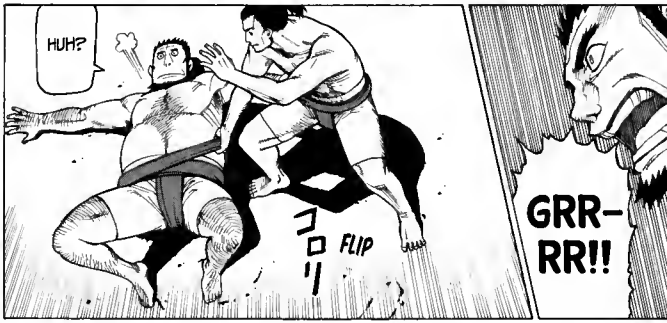
FOLLOWED BY A SHOULDER HIT TO THE SOLAR PLEXUS!!
ドッ
THUD


I DID IT!!
ムーズ陸
ペタ…ン
COLLAPSE

YOU CAN BARELY BREATHE!!
FOOL... IT'S A FESTIVAL... I'M LETTING... HOTORI-CHAN... HAVE SOME FUN...
THAT WAS PATHETIC, MAN.

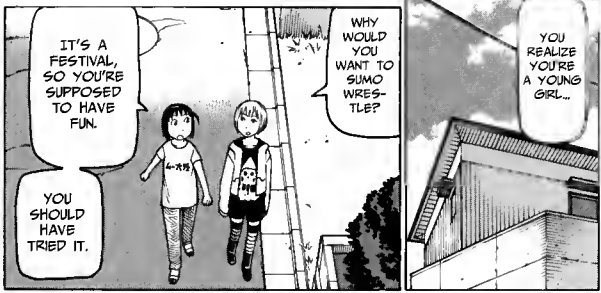
OH.. I LOST...
OH.
ズダァン
THUD
WHO IS THAT GUY? HE DOESN'T LOOK FAMILIAR.
HE OVER-POWERED THE BIKE SHOP OWNER'S SON...
HE'S STRONG ...
I'M STRON-GER.
HEY, TOPKNOT! I'LL TAKE YOU ON NEXT!
AMUS-ING...

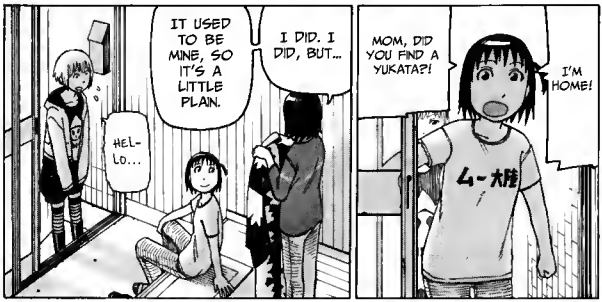

THUD
ドガッ

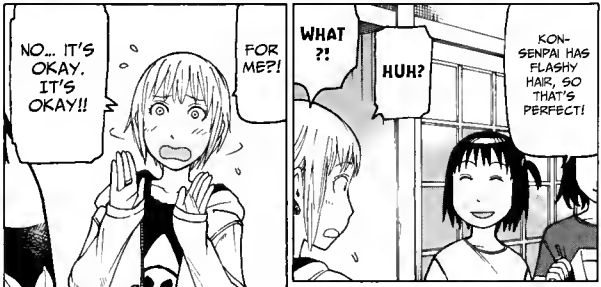

HUH?
コロリ
FLIP
GRR-RR!!

RUSTLE
COME ON...
WHO IS THAT GUY?!
IMPOSSIBLE! HE USED ALL HIS STRENGTH AND STILL GOT THROWN...

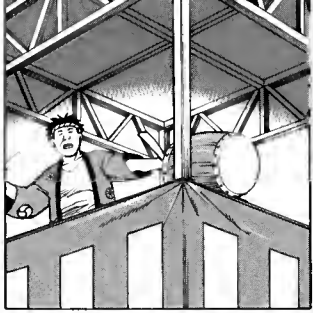
IT'S ME.
I'M OFF DUTY TODAY...
OH! THE COP!!
NO WONDER HE'S STRONG.
SNORT.
TWO FORMER GANG LEADERS LOST TO A GIRL IN HIGH SCHOOL AND A COP...
ボン
WHISPER
PA-THE-TIC...
KO... BU... HEI...!
GET YOUR ASS IN THE ARENA —!!


YOU REALIZE YOU'RE A YOUNG GIRL...
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO SUMO WRES-TLE?
IT'S A FESTIVAL, SO YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE FUN.
YOU SHOULD HAVE TRIED IT.


I'M HOME!
MOM, DID YOU FIND A YUKATA?!
I DID. I DID, BUT...
IT USED TO BE MINE, SO IT'S A LITTLE PLAIN.
HEL-LO...


KON-SENPAI HAS FLASHY HAIR, SO THAT'S PERFECT!
HUH?
WHAT ?!
FOR ME?!
NO... IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY!!

THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
AHAHA! YOU LOOK FUNNY IN A YUKATA WITH BLONDE HAIR!
HUH? AREN'T YOU WEARING THAT BACK-WARDS?
WE DON'T HAVE ANY GHOSTS IN THIS FAMILY.
WAIT. IF I WEAR A TRIANGLE THING ON MY HEAD, COULD I TURN TRANSPAR-ENT?
WHAT A PAIN!!
WHAAAT? I HAVE TO REDO IT?!
YEAH, THAT'S FOR DEAD PEOPLE.



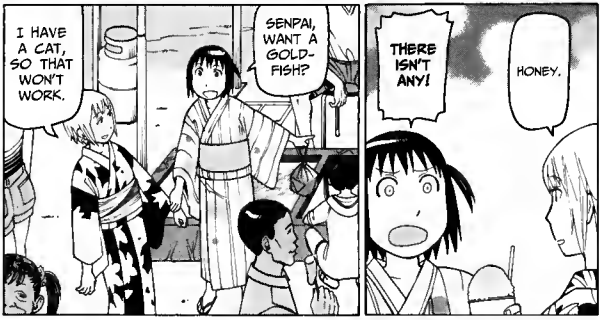
LANTERNS: NAITOU DENTAL CLINIC / ARAI DRY CLEANING / STATIONERY

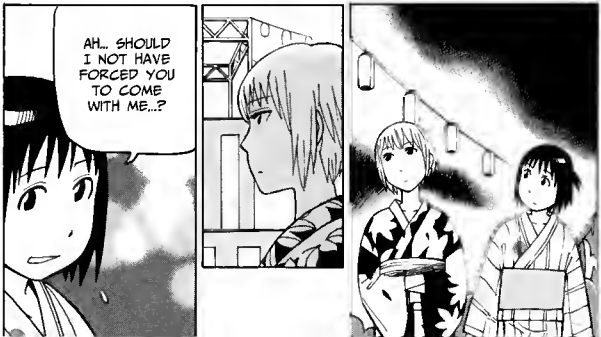
SIGN: CANNONBALLS

SIGN: DELICIOUS SWEET DANGO

CANNONBALL/BAKUDANYAKI: LIKE AN OVERSIZED TAKOYAKI (OCTOPUS BALL), IT'S A BALL OF BATTER WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF FILLINGS INSIDE, LIKE CORN, CABBAGE, GINGER, SHRIMP, HAM, QUAIL EGGS...

DO YOU WANT STRAW-BERRY OR LEMON?!
WHAT NOW?
HERE, SEN-PAI!!


I HAVE A CAT, SO THAT WON'T WORK.
SENPAI, WANT A GOLD-FISH?
THERE ISN'T ANY!
HONEY.

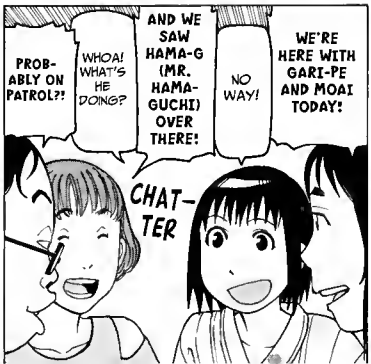

AH... SHOULD I NOT HAVE FORCED YOU TO COME WITH ME...?

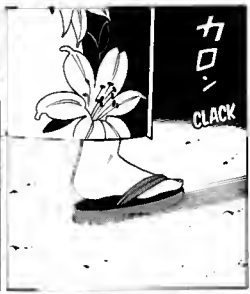
I'M HAVING FUN. I JUST DON'T SHOW IT, UNLIKE YOU.
YOU SHOULD LOOK HAPPIER, THEN.

THAT'S NOT IT. I LIKE FESTI-VALS...
.....
.....

GURAI-KO?!
AH! FUJI-GON, SA-CHIN...
NO WAY?! IT'S BEEN FOR-EVER—!!

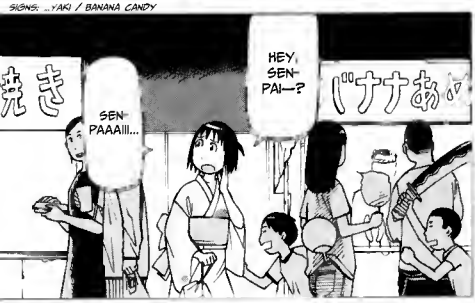
HUH?! ISN'T THAT SHIYA-PON?


PROB-ABLY ON PATROL?!
WHOA! WHAT'S HE DOING?
AND WE SAW HAMA-G (MR. HAMA-GUCHI) OVER THERE!
NO WAY!
WE'RE HERE WITH GARI-PE AND MOAI TODAY!
CHAT-TER



SIGNS: FLOATING STONE 2,000 YEN / GAMES

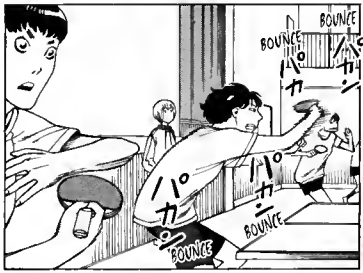
SIGNS: ...YAKI / BANANA CANDY



SENPAI——!
SENPAI— WHERE ARE YOU—?
THERE YOU ARE!!
HEY, KON! WHERE'D YOU GO?!
THUMP
THUMP
ドン
ドンドン
ヒャハー!
THUMP
RATTLE
I'M DONE. ALL DONE!
ARE YOU DONE?
SORRY, I RAN INTO SOME FRIENDS FROM GRADE SCHOOL.

THE MOON—
THE MOON—
IS OUT
THUMP THUMP
ドンドコ
ドンTHUMP
THE BON DANCE STARTED!
TH-THAT'S OKAY! I'LL JUST WATCH, YOU GO AHEAD.
SENPAI, LET'S GO—
EVERY-ONE CAN JOIN IN.
COME ON, LET'S JOIN THEM.
IT'S NOT GOING TO EMBARRASS YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. YOU SHOULD GIVE EVERYTHING A TRY!

トッ CLACK
CLACK トッ
YOU JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE.
YOU'RE TOO SIMPLE.
OW!

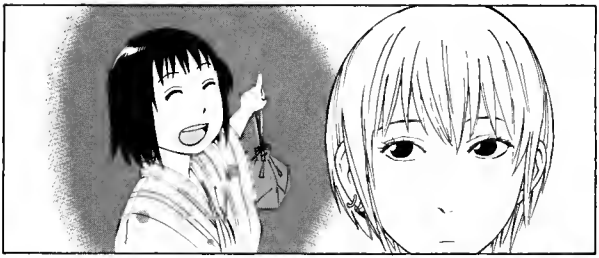

BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
パカーン
パカーン
パカーン

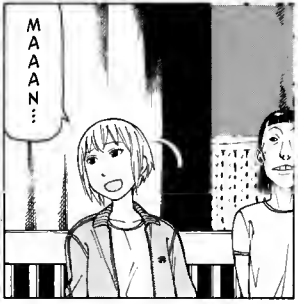
I DIDN'T SUMO WRES-TLE.
DID HOTORI SAY SOME-THING?

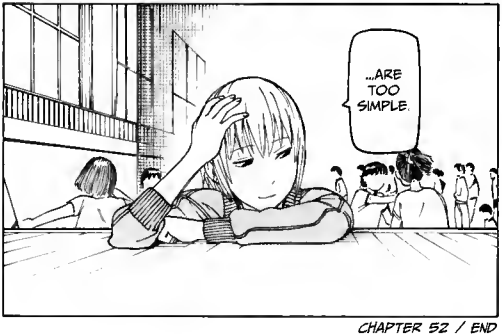
DID YOU HAVE FUN SUMO WRES-TLING?
GOOD PRAC-TICE, SENPAI

SHE'S A SIMPLE PERSON, SO WHEN SHE SEES SOMEONE LAID BACK LIKE YOU, SHE THINKS THEY'RE NOT HAVING FUN... PROBABLY.

NO... BUT SHE'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT INVITING YOU TO THE FESTIVAL FOR A WHILE.





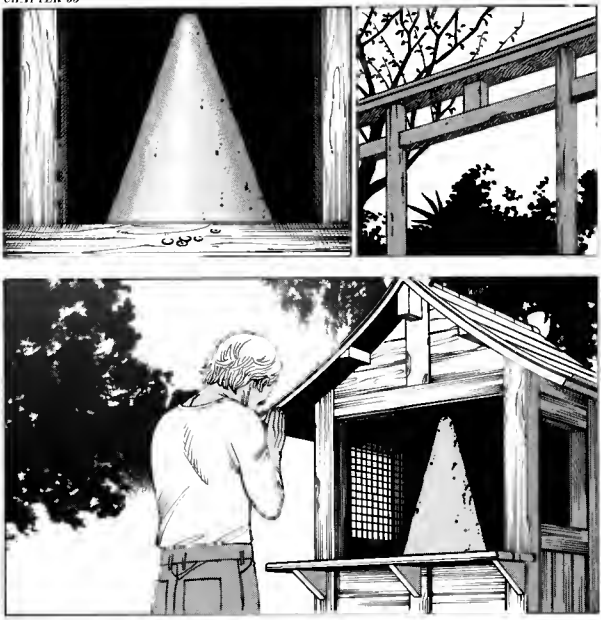


CHAPTER 52 / END

SHOWDOWN

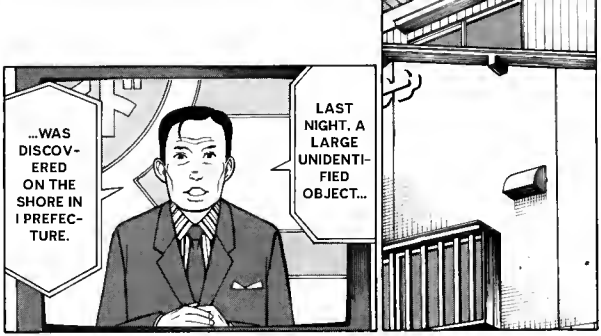
POOR GUY
BY ISHIGURO MASAKAZU
HEY, POOR GUY. YOU LOOK LIKE YOU HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL IN A WHILE.
OH. HELLO.
I JUST COMPLETED THE ULTIMATE BOWL OF MIXED RICE. CARE FOR SOME?
HE PISSES ME OFF... BUT HIS RICE MUST BE LOADED WITH GOOD STUFF... GUESS I'LL GO...
DAMN.
THERE'S ONLY RICE?
SIXTY PERCENT KOSHIHIKARI AND FORTY PERCENT SASANISHIKI.

KOSHIHIKARI IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMONLY GROWN RICE VARIETIES IN JAPAN. SASANISHIKI IS OFTEN USED FOR SUSHI.



MONDAY

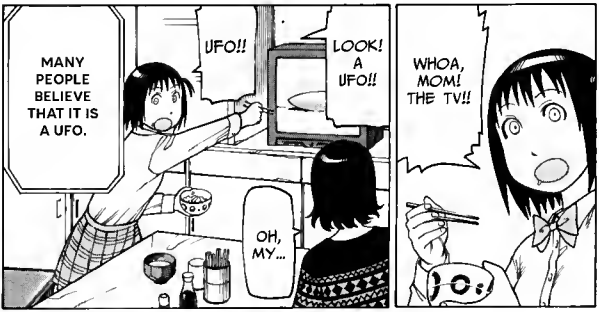
CHAPTER 53 CONTACT


LAST NIGHT, A LARGE UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT...
...WAS DISCOVERED ON THE SHORE IN I PREFECTURE.

THIS MORNING, LOCAL RESIDENTS AND FISHERMAN HAVE GATHERED TO EXAMINE THE OBJECT.
LET'S GO TO KISHIYA, WHO'S CURRENTLY AT THE SCENE.
KISHIYA-SAN.

RIGHT.
I JUST SAW THE OBJECT FOR MYSELF, AND IT'S BIGGER THAN I WAS EXPECTING.
DRIP DROP
ぴたぴた

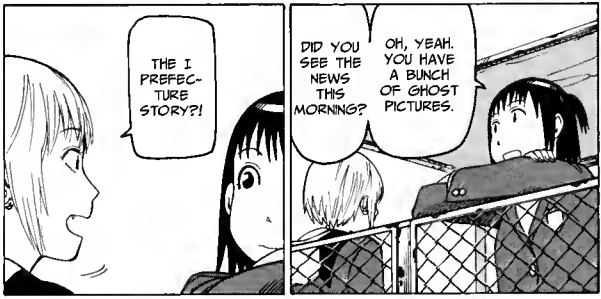
IT'S SHAPED LIKE A GO STONE, AND THE SURFACE IS COMPLETELY SILVER.
IT'S AT LEAST TEN METERS WIDE.

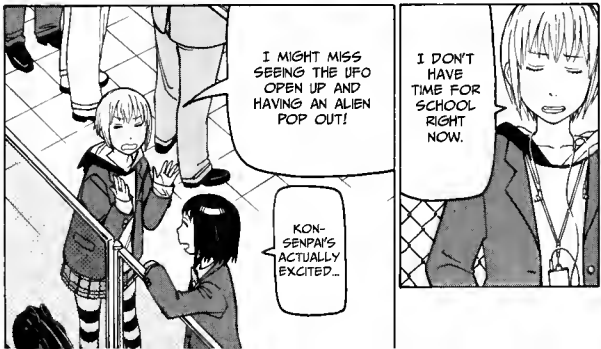

MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT IT IS A UFO.
UFO!!
LOOK! A UFO!!
OH, MY...
WHOA, MOM! THE TV!!

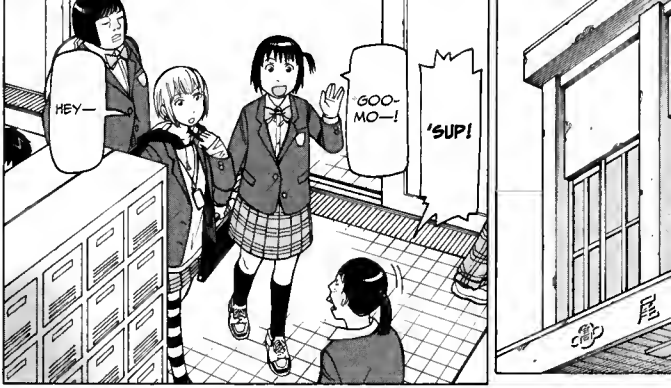
もぐもぐもぐ
GOBBLE GOBBLE GOBBLE—!
WELL, YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL IF YOU DON'T HURRY.
OOPS!
THE LOCAL FISHERMEN CLAIM THEY'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE.

I'M...
...A HUGE FAN OF UFOS AND GHOSTS...
...AND STUFF LIKE THAT!
バス

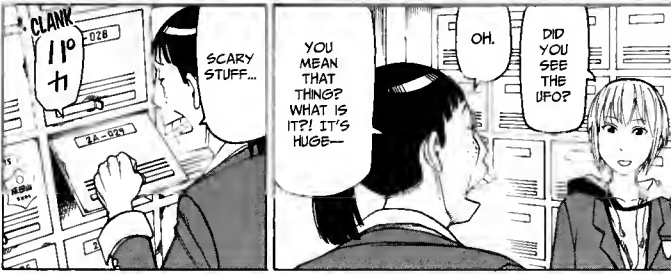
SIGN: BUS

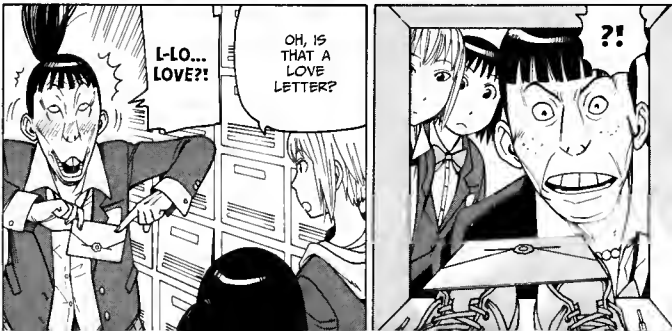

OH, YEAH. YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF GHOST PICTURES.
DID YOU SEE THE NEWS THIS MORNING?
THE I PREFEC-TURE STORY?!

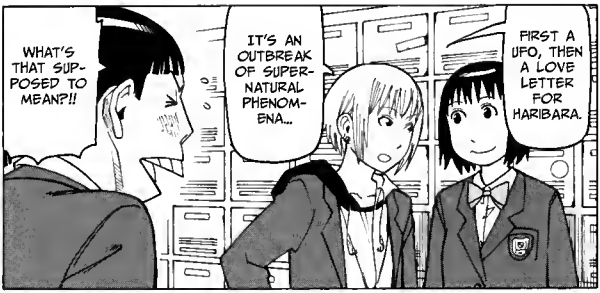

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR SCHOOL RIGHT NOW.
I MIGHT MISS SEEING THE UFO OPEN UP AND HAVING AN ALIEN POP OUT!
KON-SENPAI'S ACTUALLY EXCITED...



- GOOMO: AN ABBREVIATION FOR GOOD MORNING.

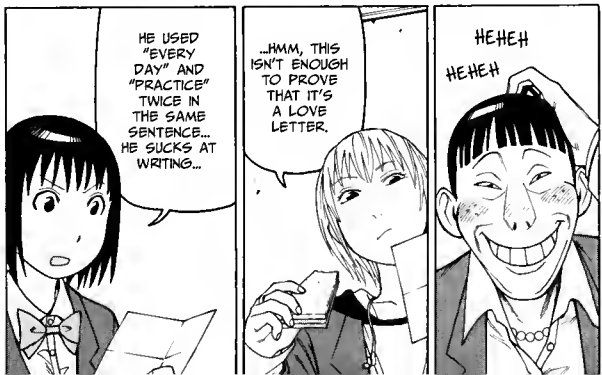




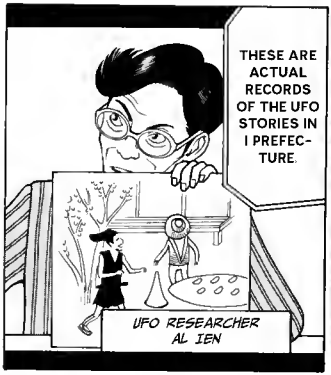


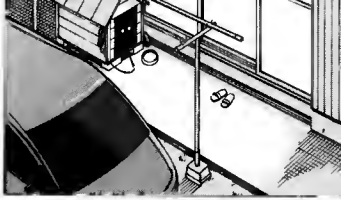
SIGN: FACULTY OFFICE

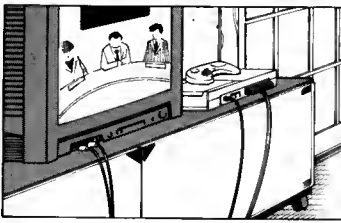
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU PRACTICE EVERY DAY SINCE THE DAY YOU FIRST STARTED PRACTICING EVERY DAY. I WOULD LIKE TO TALK, SO PLEASE MEET ME AT THE BOTTOM OF THE STAIRS IN THE CLUBHOUSE AFTER SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY.


HE USED "EVERY DAY" AND "PRACTICE" TWICE IN THE SAME SENTENCE... HE SUCKS AT WRITING...
...HMM, THIS ISN'T ENOUGH TO PROVE THAT IT'S A LOVE LETTER.
HEHEH
HEHEH

PLEASE! WHY DO YOU ALL HAVE TO BE SO MEAN?!
SNATCH
IT DOESN'T SAY WHO THE LETTER'S TO OR WHO WROTE IT. IS THIS REALLY FOR HARIBARA-SAN?
WHAT IF... THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO ALL OF THE PING PONG CLUB MEMBERS...
HAPPENS ALL THE TIME IN MANGA.
A LOVE LETTER TURNS OUT TO BE A LETTER OF CHALLENGE.
YEP, YEP.
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST ACCEPT THAT IT'S A NORMAL LOVE LETTER?!
DID YOU RECEIVE A LOVE LETTER, SENPAI?
LAST MONTH WAS THE FINAL ONE FOR THIRD-YEARS...
..SO THEY CAN STEAL THE PING PONG TABLES!
THEN AFTER SCHOOL ON WED-NESDAY, NOBODY WILL BE AT THE GYM...
THIS IS A TRICK!!


THESE ARE ACTUAL RECORDS OF THE UFO STORIES IN I PREFECTURE.
UFO RESEARCHER AL IEN

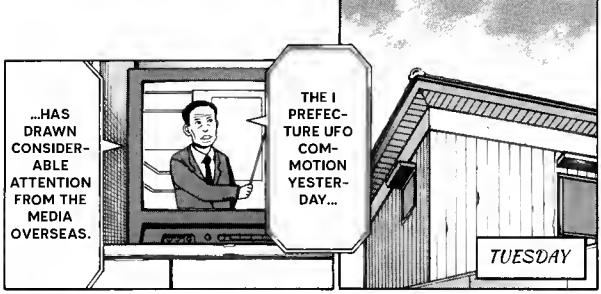




スコー
SNORE...

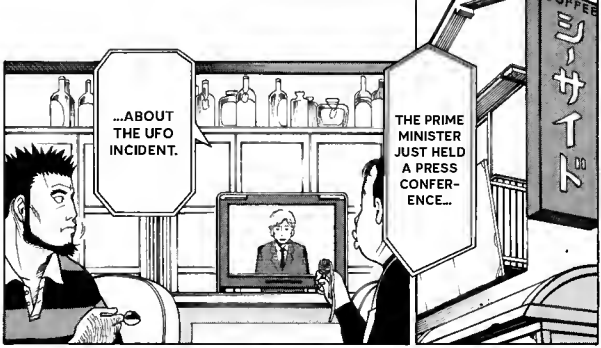
LOOKS LIKE THE BACK OF A MAN WEARING A HAT.
THAT THING WITH A ROUND HEAD IS AN ALIEN?
UFO SKEPTIC BARRY SQUARE

HUH?
IT'S GOING TO WRINKLE.
HOTORI, TAKE OFF YOUR UNIFORM.


...HAS DRAWN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM THE MEDIA OVERSEAS.
THE I PREFECTURE UFO COMMOTION YESTERDAY...
TUESDAY

A HEADLINE IN COUNTRY C SAYS, "UFO LANDS IN JAPAN?!"
IN COUNTRY K...
AAAAH
ONE HEADLINE IN COUNTRY A SAYS, "IF AN ALIEN DISEMBARKS, WE MUST OFFER A WARM WELCOME."
PLOP
びよよ

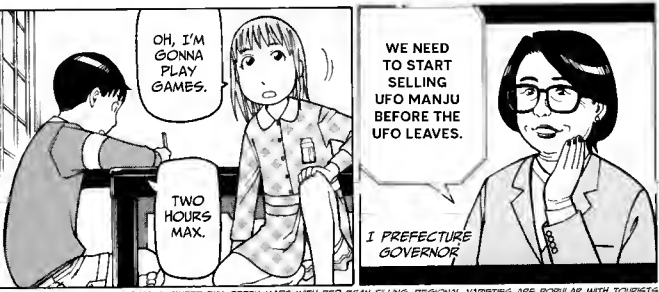
WHILE COUNTRY E IS REQUESTING PERMISSION TO SEND AN INVESTIGATION TEAM...
EAT FASTER! YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE!!
THE UFO STORY FROM YESTERDAY IS GETTING BIGGER. IT MUST BE REAL.
もぐ
MUNCH



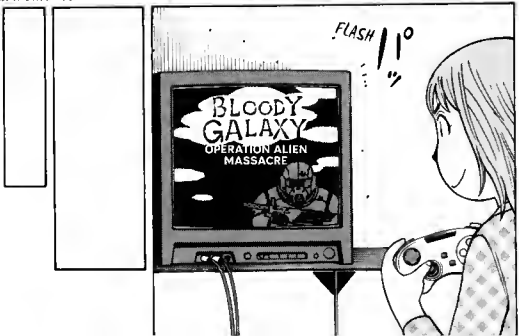
SIGN: COFFEE SEASIDE

...AND SO IT IS OUR PREROGATIVE TO DECIDE HOW TO HANDLE THE SITUATION.
...IT HAS LANDED ON OUR NATION'S TERRITORY...
IF THIS OBJECT REALLY IS A UFO, THEN REGARDLESS OF ITS ORIGIN...

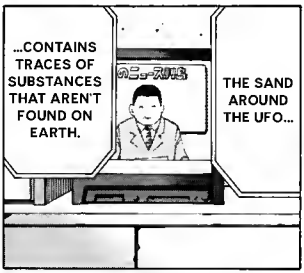
HAVE THEY FIGURED OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THE ACTUAL UFO?!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN MUCH TO ME.
...JAPAN CAN HOG IT ALL...
AHA... SO IF FRIENDLY ALIENS COME OUT OF THE UFO AND OFFER HIGHLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY...

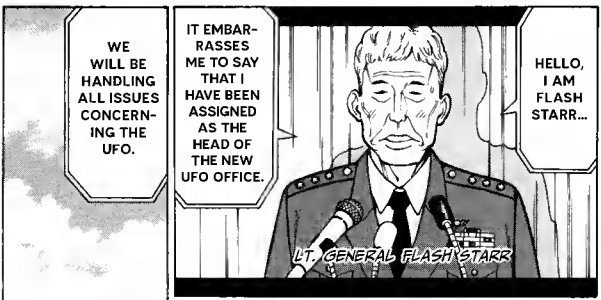


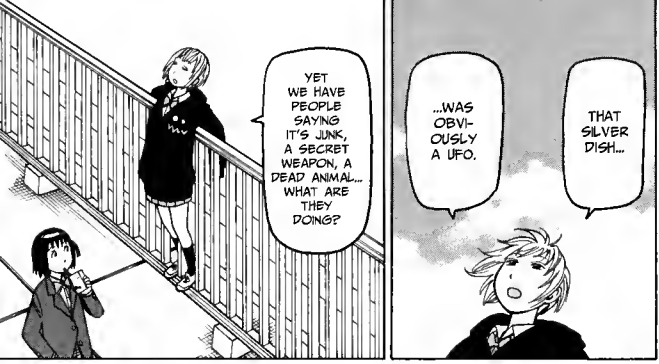
MANJU: A SWEET BUN OFTEN MADE WITH RED BEAN FILLING. REGIONAL VARIETIES ARE POPULAR WITH TOURISTS.

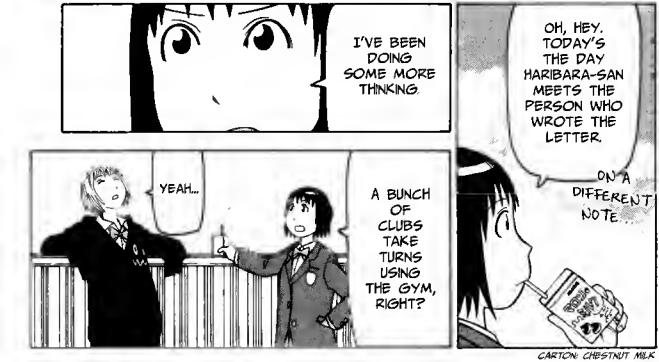


TV: MORNING NEWS




WE WILL BE HANDLING ALL ISSUES CONCERNING THE UFO.
IT EMBARRASSES ME TO SAY THAT I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED AS THE HEAD OF THE NEW UFO OFFICE.
HELLO, I AM FLASH STARR...
LT. GENERAL FLASH STARR




OH, HEY. TODAY'S THE DAY HARIBARA-SAN MEETS THE PERSON WHO WROTE THE LETTER.
ON A DIFFERENT NOTE...
I'VE BEEN DOING SOME MORE THINKING.
A BUNCH OF CLUBS TAKE TURNS USING THE GYM, RIGHT?
YEAH...

CARTON: CHESTNUT MILK

WHEN WE CAN'T USE THE GYM, WE USE THE HALLWAY.
SOME-TIMES, WE RUN OUTSIDE.
THIS PERSON'S BEEN WATCHING HER PRACTICE EVERY SINGLE DAY...?

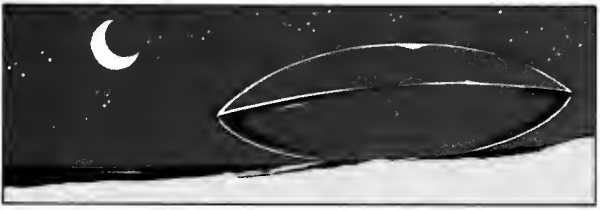
AND THIS PERSON HAS WATCHED HER EVERY DAY... IF THE LETTER IS TRUE, THAT'S PRETTY CRAZY...
THAT WAS OVER A YEAR AND A HALF AGO.
HARIBARA-SAN JOINED THE PING PONG CLUB IMMEDIATELY AFTER ENTERING THIS SCHOOL, RIGHT?
YOU JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
MAYBE WE SHOULD WATCH FROM THE SHADOWS, IN CASE SOMETHING HAPPENS TO HER!
BACKGROUND: ...TODAY
IF PROTECTING THIS PLANET IS EMBARRASSING FOR HIM, HE SHOULD RESIGN.
I FOUND THAT REMARK TO BE QUITE DISTURBING.
THE UFO CZAR'S COMMENT ABOUT BEING EMBARRASSED HAS CREATED AN UPROAR.

!!
OH. HELLO, HARIBARA-SAN.

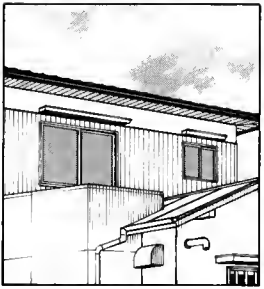
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME USE IT.
REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE PRACTICING ON OUR DRUM SET FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL?
OH! SAKURA-MIZAKA-SENPAI FROM THE POPULAR MUSIC CLUB!
WHAT?!
WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING OUR DRUMMER?
...BECAUSE HE NEEDS TO STUDY FOR COLLEGE EXAMS.
YOU SEE, THE DRUMMER IN OUR BAND QUIT...
.....
.....
...OKAY, I'M GOING HOME.

WHEN OUR EXPLORATION VESSEL CRASHED ON EARTH 1,100 YEARS AGO...
...WE PRESENTED EARTH WITH A COMMUNICATION DEVICE FOR CONTACTING OUR PLANET.
TO SHOW OUR APPRECIATION...
...THE NATIVES GAVE THE CREW MEMBERS A WARM WELCOME.

EVER SINCE, OUR TWO PLANETS HAVE ENJOYED A FRIENDLY RELATION-SHIP.
MR. PRIME MINIS-TER!
YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION!
RIGHT!
WELL... AS YOU KNOW...
WHEN WE RECEIVED A MESSAGE ABOUT A FOOD SHORTAGE, WE SENT ASSIS-TANCE.
I DO NOT BELIEVE WE DID ANYTHING WRONG.
I BEG TO DIFFER, MR. PRIME MINISTER! THE FOOD WE SENT WAS TOO HARD FOR THE HUMAN JAW.
DID YOU NOT DO ANY RE-SEARCH?!
ABOUT 17 MILLION US DOLLARS
IT COSTS 1.7 BILLION YEN TO SEND FOOD TO EARTH!



THURSDAY



CONTAINER: SEAWEED

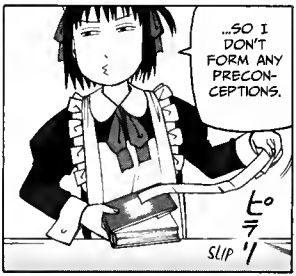
HEY, NOW... I'M GOING ON BUSINESS...
LUCKY YOU. I WANNA GO. I WANNA SEE THE UFO.
WHAT?! YOU'RE GOING TO I PREFEC-TURE FOR WORK?!
HON-ESTLY— YOU DO THIS EVERY DAY...
HURRY UP, HOTORI.
GOBBLE GOBBLE
I WAS... EXPRESSING DISAPPOINT-MENT WITH OUR PASSIVE APPROACH...
...THAT WE DID NOT PREVI-OUSLY HAVE A SECTION FOR UFOS.
WHAT I MEANT TO SAY WAS THAT I WAS EMBAR-RASSED ...
I APOLOGIZE FOR ANY CONFUSION THAT MAY HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY MY REMARKS.

WHAT'S THIS...
HMM... WELL...
WE HAVE A BREAK-ING UPDATE!
WELL, THAT SOUNDS LIKE AN EXCUSE TO ME... OH!
JUST NOW... THE ACTRESS KISARAGI KAREN-SAN...
...WAS AR-RESTED ON SUSPICION OF MURDER.
WHAT——?!
WE WILL PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ONCE WE LEARN MORE DETAILS. AGAIN, THE ACTRESS...

AFTER THAT, THE UFO STORY WAS QUICKLY FORGOTTEN.

CHAPTER 53 / END

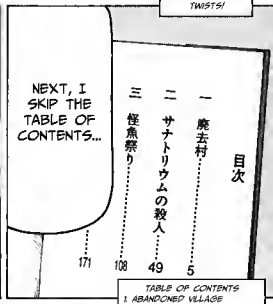
CHAPTER 54
DISAPPOINTING CARD


...SO I DON'T FORM ANY PRECON-CEPTIONS.
ピラリ
SLIP

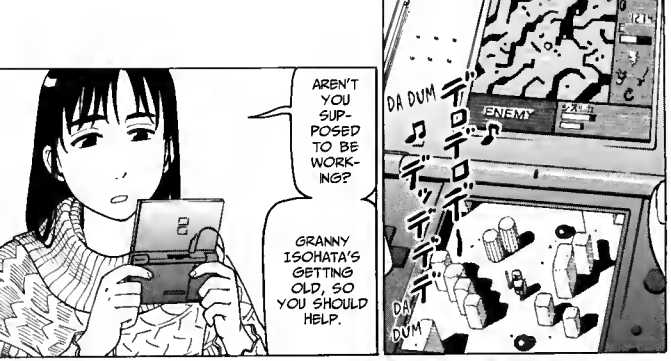
THE VISITOR'S COFFIN
TAMOTO WAKATSU
閑客の棺
田本若津
水仙 賞郎 激賞!!
行間にだまされる!
読む者の虚を衝くトリックとは
この事だ!!
FIRST, I REMOVE THE ATTACHED RECOMMEN-DATION...
RECOMMENDED BY SUSEN SHTAROU. READERS WILL BE SHOCKED BY THE TWISTS!

...AND HIDE THOSE PAGES WITH THE COVER FLAP.

...SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN...


NEXT, I SKIP THE TABLE OF CONTENTS...
目次
一 廃去村……5
二 サナトリウムの殺人……49
三 怪魚祭り……108
……171
TABLE OF CONTENTS
1. ABANDONED VILLAGE
2. THE SANATORIUM KILLER
3. FESTIVAL OF STRANGE FISH

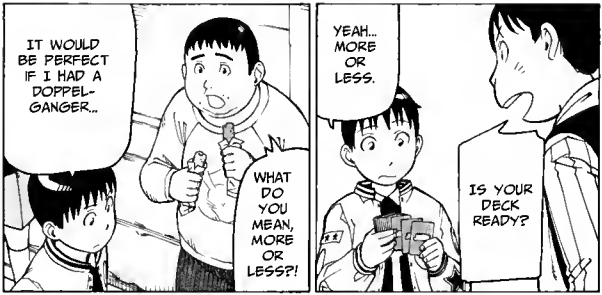
MUST BE QUITE THE ORDEAL...
CAN'T WAIT TO READ THIS!
WHEW... I HAVE TO DO THIS EVERY TIME I BUY A NEW BOOK.

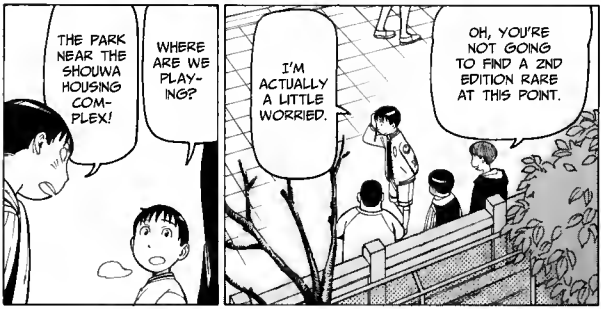

AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE WORKING?
GRANNY ISOHATA'S GETTING OLD, SO YOU SHOULD HELP.
DA DUM
デロデロデロデロデデデデ
ENEMY
DA DUM

SO YOU RAN AWAY BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T TAKE IT.
LEAVING TA-TSUN AND SANADA TO FAWN OVER EACH OTHER IN THE CAFE...
THAT OLD WOMAN HIT THE PACHINKO PARLORS, SO SHE'S NOT THERE.

EXCUSE ME!
I DIDN'T RUN AWAY!
I WAS BEING CONSIDERATE.

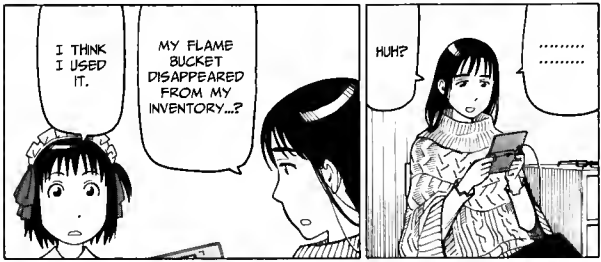
HUH?! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO PLAY VIDEO GAMES!
HOTORI, DO SOME LEVELING FOR ME.
WILL YOU BUY THIS?
SURE, SURE.
ゴト CLACK
..AND WHEN AN ENEMY SHOWS UP, KEEP PRESSING THIS BUTTON. BUT DON'T GO INTO THE CAVE. YOU'LL DIE...
JUST MOVE AROUND ...
SIGN: FIRE HYDRANT
IT'S TIME FOR THE FINAL BATTLE, TAKERU!


IT WOULD BE PERFECT IF I HAD A DOPPEL-GANGER..
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MORE OR LESS?!
YEAH.. MORE OR LESS.
IS YOUR DECK READY?


THE PARK NEAR THE SHOUWA HOUSING COM-PLEX!
WHERE ARE WE PLAY-ING?
I'M ACTUALLY A LITTLE WORRIED.
OH, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FIND A 2ND EDITION RARE AT THIS POINT.

THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN PHONE CARDS.
MY SISTER'S NOT VERY HELPFUL.
REALLY?!
MY SISTER SAID THAT THERE WERE INDIVIDUAL DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS AT KAMBIDOU.
THERE'S STILL TIME! I'LL TRY THE ANTIQUE SHOP AS A LAST RESORT.

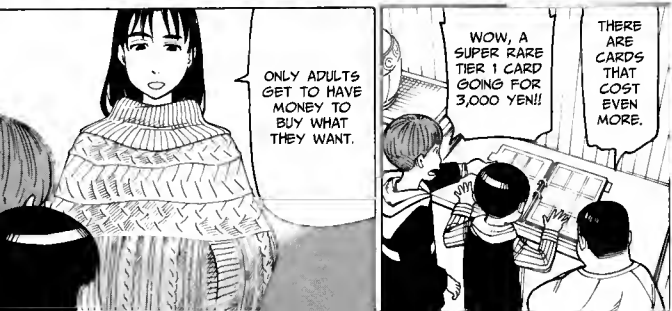
PLEASE COME BACK IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SELL...
THANK YOU.
WHACK!
ドバッ
ズドゴバ
BOP!
WELL? HOW'S THE LEVELING GOING?
OKAY.


.....
.....
HUH?
MY FLAME BUCKET DISAPPEARED FROM MY INVENTORY...?
I THINK I USED IT.

WHY WOULD YOU USE IT...?
I WAS SAVING IT FOR AN EMER-GENCY...!
HELLO!

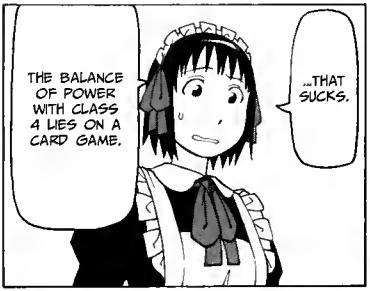
CARDS: DOPPELGANGER, GHOSTWRITER / TAG: TIER 2

BOOK: DEMON COLOSSEUM SAMPLE CARDS


ONLY ADULTS GET TO HAVE MONEY TO BUY WHAT THEY WANT.
WOW, A SUPER RARE TIER 1 CARD GOING FOR 3,000 YEN!!
THERE ARE CARDS THAT COST EVEN MORE.

BUT YOU'RE AN ADULT!
A LITTLE.
DO YOU PLAY DEMON COLOSSEUM, NICE LADY?
EITHER WAY, IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE FOR US.
PLAY ME SOME-TIME!!
OH—!
LOTS OF ADULTS PLAY...
THAT'S WHY CARDS ARE SO EXPENSIVE...
WELL...
STOP SPENDING MONEY ON THAT STUFF. THEY'LL BE GONE IN TEN YEARS.
ARE YOU HERE TO BUY CARDS?

OUR TAKERU IS BETTER!!
STUPID. YAMAMOTO'S DEFINITELY BETTER!!
FLASH-BACK
TA-KERU IS!
YAMA-MOTO'S STILL BETTER!
THAT MEANS NOTH-ING!!
TAKERU'S REALLY SMART.
YAMAMOTO IS SUCH A GOOD ARTIST THAT IT'S SCARY!
AFTER SCHOOL, WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHETHER YOU OR YAMAMOTO IS STRONGER!
YOU GOT IN A FIGHT WITH THE GUYS FROM CLASS 4 OVER THAT?!
WHAAAAT?!
TAG: ARASHIYAMA

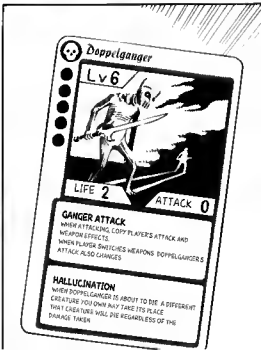

THE BALANCE OF POWER WITH CLASS 4 LIES ON A CARD GAME.
..THAT SUCKS.

WHAT
!?

GO HELP YOUR FRIENDS WIN THIS TURF WAR!
JUST THIS ONCE, I'LL PITCH IN AND BUY YOU THE 620 YEN CARD.

..OKAY.

QUICK MENTAL MATH!
THIS COSTS 25 TIMES MORE!!
ONE CARD FOR 620 YEN WHEN YOU CAN NORMALLY BUY SIX FOR 150 YEN..!

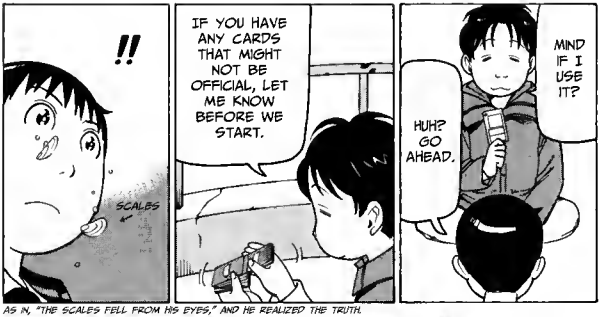

Doppelganger
Lv 6
LIFE 2
ATTACK 0
GANGER ATTACK
WHEN ATTACKING, COPY PLAYER'S ATTACK AND WEAPON EFFECTS.
WHEN PLAYER SWITCHES WEAPONS DOPPELGANGER'S ATTACK ALSO CHANGES.
HALLUCINATION
WHEN DOPPELGANGER IS ABOUT TO DIE A DIFFERENT CREATURE YOU OWN MAY TAKE ITS PLACE THAT CREATURE WILL DIE REGARDLESS OF THE DAMAGE TAKEN

ドドド
RUMBLE
SHOUWA PARK— WE'RE HERE!
庄和公
SIGN: SHOUWA PARK
THERE! IT'S THE GUYS FROM CLASS 3!!
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
IS THAT YAMAMOTO-KUN?!

WHO'S THE GUY UP THERE?
HUH?! HE'S YAMA-MOTO-KUN?!
LET'S PLAY A MATCH...
OKAY THEN...

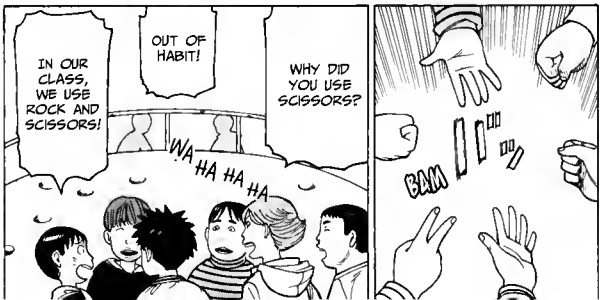
ITCH ITCH ITCH
うううずずず
THIS IS WHERE WE USUALLY HANG OUT.
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS A BIG PARK OUT HERE—

!!
M—
MY HOME IS NEARBY... WANT ME TO GRAB A BALL OR SOME-THING?
.....
.....
CHEER!
LET US KNOW WHO WINS!
WELL... UH... BEFORE WE BEGIN...
THIS CARD...
AH! THAT'S THE ONE THAT CAME WITH A MAGAZINE!! YOU ACTUALLY GOT ONE?!

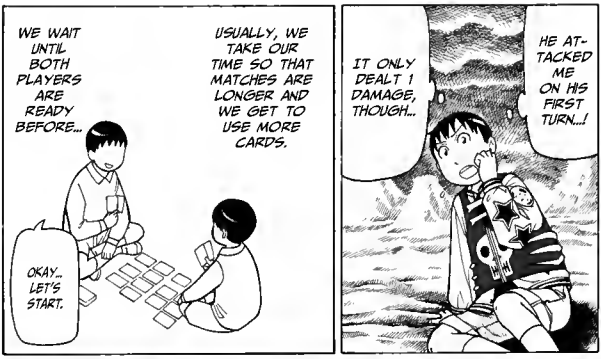


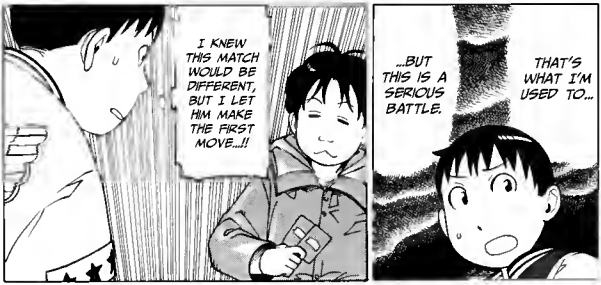
AS IN, "THE SCALES FELL FROM HIS EYES," AND HE REALIZED THE TRUTH.

THIS GUY'S NOTHING LIKE MY PREVIOUS OPPO-NENTS...!
WHAT'S THAT CARD?! AWESOME—!!
BAM!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT RARE CARDS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE SAVED FOR SURPRISING PEOPLE...



CLINK
チン
EQUIP SKULL VEST... AND END MY TURN!
HUH? YOU'RE DONE?! THEN...
SHRIEK
キャン
I SUMMON GHOST MER-MAID—
SUMMON WOOD SLIME AND FIRE BEE...
ドン
THUD
I EQUIP SANDAL-WOOD SHIELD!
バン
BAM
WHOA! I TAKE 1 DAMAGE!
ボカ
WHACK
THEN I ATTACK! MY TURN IS OVER!!


WE WAIT UNTIL BOTH PLAYERS ARE READY BEFORE...
USUALLY, WE TAKE OUR TIME SO THAT MATCHES ARE LONGER AND WE GET TO USE MORE CARDS.
OKAY... LET'S START.
IT ONLY DEALT 1 DAMAGE, THOUGH...
HE ATTACKED ME ON HIS FIRST TURN...!

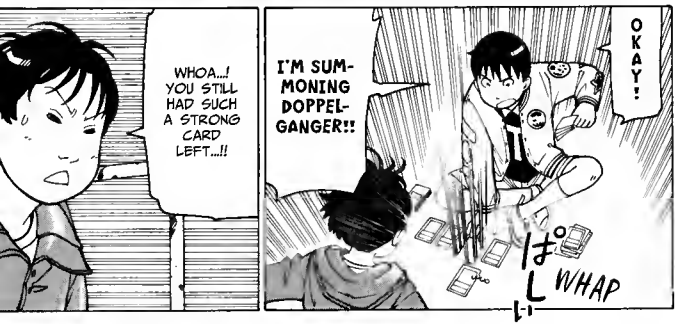

I KNEW THIS MATCH WOULD BE DIFFERENT, BUT I LET HIM MAKE THE FIRST MOVE...!!
...BUT THIS IS A SERIOUS BATTLE.
THAT'S WHAT I'M USED TO...

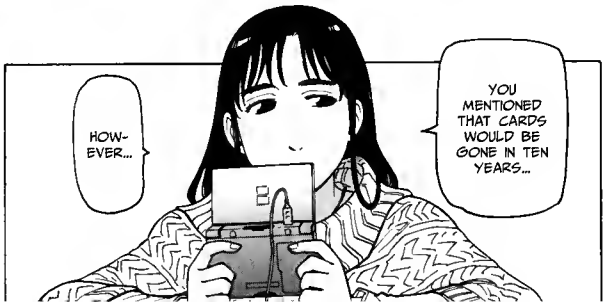
SIGN: KORENARI
BUILDING: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)
買入れ 売出し 亀井堂
...WHY DON'T YOU LIKE GAMES...?
HOTORI, CONSIDERING HOW MUCH YOU LIKE BOOKS...

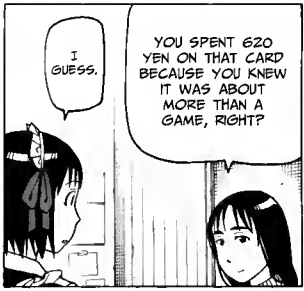
WELL, IT'S NOT THAT I DISLIKE GAMES..
...BUT THERE'S NOT MUCH POINT IN GETTING STRONGER IN A VIDEO GAME.
AND ANY CARDS YOU COLLECT WILL BE WORTHLESS ONCE YOU GET SICK OF THEM.
WELL, YOU HAVE A POINT...
BUT BOOKS OR GAMES...
...CAN DO HARM OR GOOD DEPENDING ON HOW THEY'RE USED.
HMM...

BOTH OF US ARE TRYING TO GUESS WHAT THE OTHER PERSON WILL DO.
NEITHER OF US CAN PLAY ANY CARDS.
...IS TURNING INTO A STALE-MATE...
THIS GAME ...
...YOU'RE GOOD.
THIS IS FUN!
SO THAT'S HOW THIS GAME IS SUPPOSED TO BE PLAYED.
I WISH SIS WOULD PLAY WITH ME. SHE'S USUALLY GOOD AT THIS KIND OF STUFF.
OH...
I CAN NEVER BEAT HIM...
I PLAY A LOT AGAINST MY BROTHER, WHO'S IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

TOP CARD: GHOST DANCE / MIDDLE: DOPPELGANGER

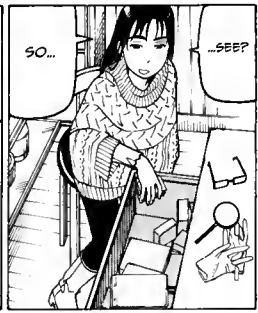


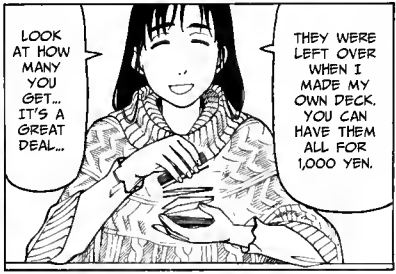



I GUESS.
YOU SPENT 620 YEN ON THAT CARD BECAUSE YOU KNEW IT WAS ABOUT MORE THAN A GAME, RIGHT?

...YOUR FRIENDSHIP MAY LAST MUCH LONGER THAN TEN YEARS.
WHEN YOU MAKE FRIENDS BY PLAYING THE SAME GAMES...

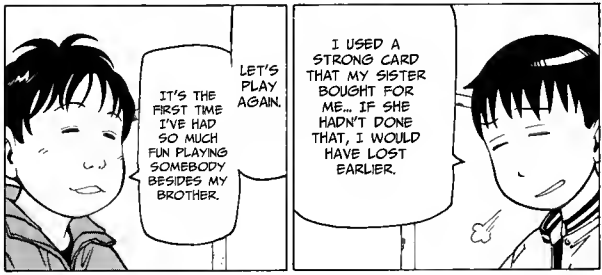
HUH?!
I'M OFFERING YOU THIS SET OF DEMON COLOSSEUM CARDS.
PLOP


SO...
...SEE?

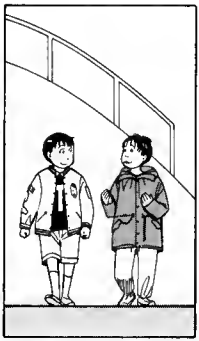

LOOK AT HOW MANY YOU GET... IT'S A GREAT DEAL...
THEY WERE LEFT OVER WHEN I MADE MY OWN DECK. YOU CAN HAVE THEM ALL FOR 1,000 YEN.

I...
...I LOST.
ガク
STUMBLE
WHEW!

NO...
IF YOU HADN'T DONE THAT, I WOULD HAVE LOST.
REMEMBER HOW YOU DIDN'T ATTACK THE FIRST TURN?

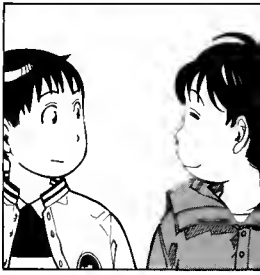

I USED A STRONG CARD THAT MY SISTER BOUGHT FOR ME... IF SHE HADN'T DONE THAT, I WOULD HAVE LOST EARLIER.
LET'S PLAY AGAIN.
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HAD SO MUCH FUN PLAYING SOMEBODY BESIDES MY BROTHER.

HEY! WHO WON?!
OH, LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DONE!

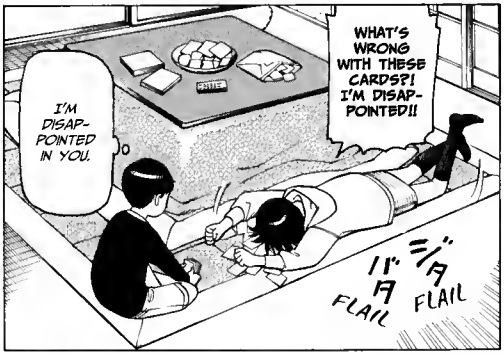


LET'S PLAY SOCCER, THEN!
SERI-OUSLY ?!
IT WAS A DRAW.

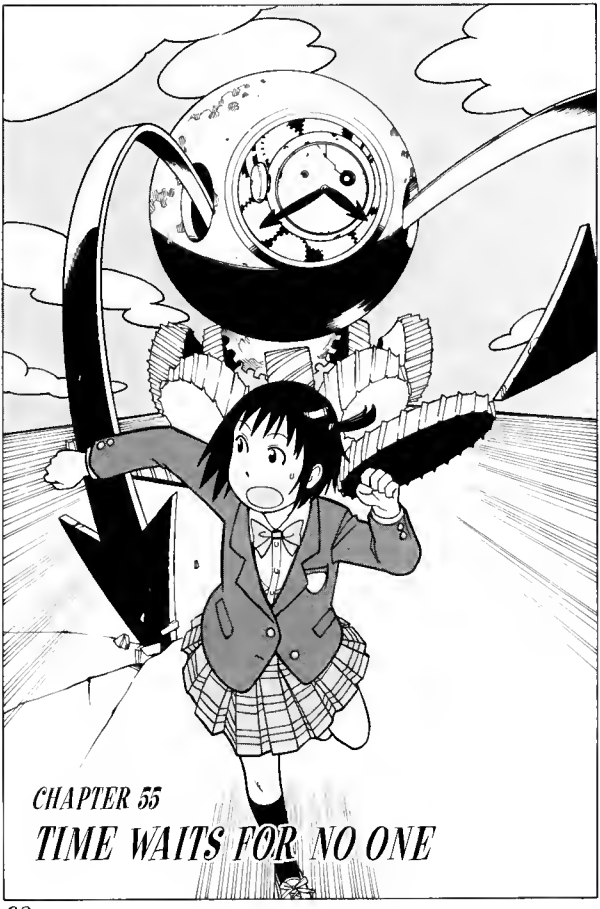
I'M GOING TO YAMA-MOTO-KUN'S HOUSE NOW.



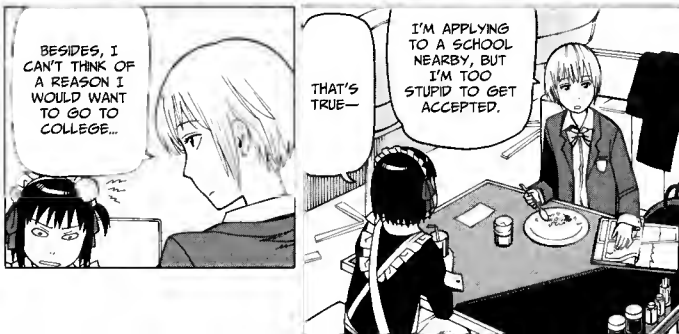
TA-DA!
THESE ARE MY CARDS.
TAKE-RU—!
THIS IS THE STRONGEST DECK IN TOWN AFTER SHIZUKA-NEECHAN'S.
LET'S PLAY, LITTLE BOY.
HUH?!
CARD: PORK ON RICE
THIS GAME WAS MADE FOR ME!!
THOROUGH PREPARA-TION, OBSERVA-TION, AND QUICK THINKING—



CHAPTER 54 / END


CHAPTER 55
TIME WAITS FOR NO ONE

WINDOW: COFFEE & LUNCH SEASIDE


BESIDES, I CAN'T THINK OF A REASON I WOULD WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE...
THAT'S TRUE—
I'M APPLYING TO A SCHOOL NEARBY, BUT I'M TOO STUPID TO GET ACCEPTED.

I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE.
THAT WAS A SERIOUS ANSWER...
YOU COULD PLAY BASS ON THE STREET?
THE FOOD WAS GOOD.
FOR-GET IT.
BUT IT'S BEYOND YOUR COMPRE-HENSION.
I HAVE PLENTY TO WORRY ABOUT.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

.....
DID YOU PISS HER OFF?
UH OH.
カラン
カラン
RATTLE
RATTLE
...SO YOU SHOULD HAVE GIVEN MORE THOUGHT BEFORE ANSWERING.
HOTORI, SHE CHOSE TO ASK YOU FOR ADVICE, GOD KNOWS WHY...
YOU MEAN KON-SENPAI.
THAT CATTY GIRL WAS SULKING...
TRY TO REMEMBER THE NAMES OF YOUR CUSTOMERS.
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO GIVE HER ADVICE...?
BUT... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M GOING TO DO AFTER GRADUATING.

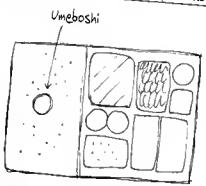
DESK NUMBER. SIGNS: SCHOOL KITCHEN / HATTORI

UMEBOSHI: A SOUR PICKLED PLUM / HIJIKI: A TYPE OF SEAWEED, CONSIDERED NUTRITIOUS FOR ITS MINERAL CONTENT

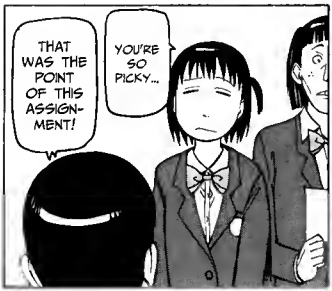
Theme

A boxed lunch that can be profitably sold for 400 yen!

700 calories



Rice	medium portion
Fried Fish	1~2
Fried Seaweed	1
Omelets	2~3
Meatballs	2
Hijiki	medium portion
Cherry Tomato	1
Boiled Spinach	small portion


THAT WAS THE POINT OF THIS ASSIGN-MENT!
YOU'RE SO PICKY...

YOUR MEAL IS DEFINITELY OVER 700 CALORIES.
...DID YOU REALLY CALCULATE HOW MANY CALORIES THIS IS?

YOU CAN ONLY DO SO MUCH WITH TOFU.
WE'LL USE TOFU SUBSTITUTES INSTEAD!!

INSTEAD OF FRIED FISH AND FRIED SEA-WEED...
THEN...

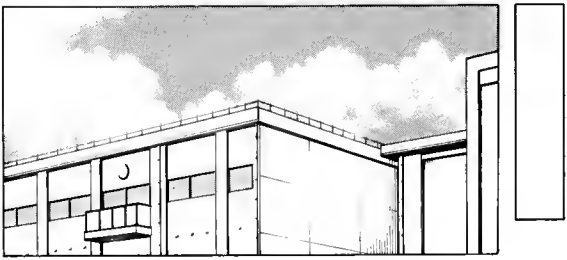
THAT'S KIND OF VAGUE!!
IF YOU TAKE OUT THE FRIED STUFF, YOU CAN ADD TOFU.

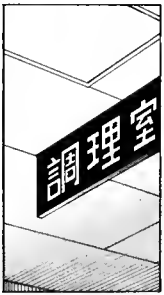
ANYWAY... IF YOU DON'T DO A PROPER CALCULATION, I CAN'T LET YOU COOK.

OH, MOM.
WE'LL BE COOKING IN CLASS TOMORROW, SO I DON'T NEED A LUNCH.
OKAY, THAT SAVES ME TIME.
THANKS FOR DINNER.
WHEW— THAT WAS GOOD.
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT IT WAS GOOD.
TAKES THE FUN OUT OF COOKING...

UM...
WELL, TODAY'S MAIN SIDE DISH...
GOOD HEALTH
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM? IT WAS GOOD.
CAN YOU GO INTO MORE DETAIL?

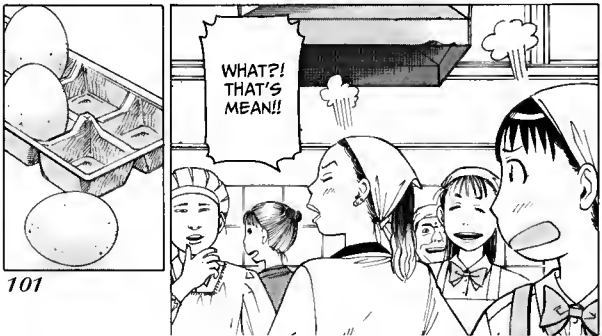
IS THAT... A COMPLIMENT?
HUH...?
GOODHEAL
HOME MAKE
...WAS LIKE PASTA SAUCE!

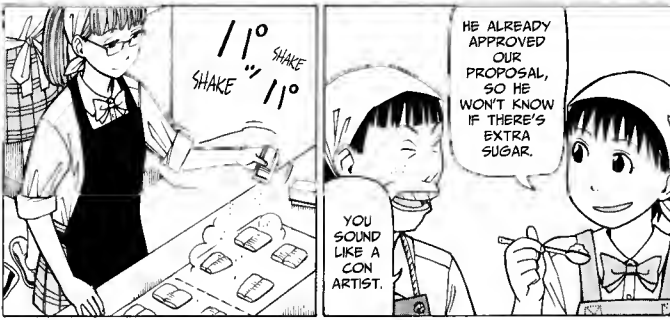




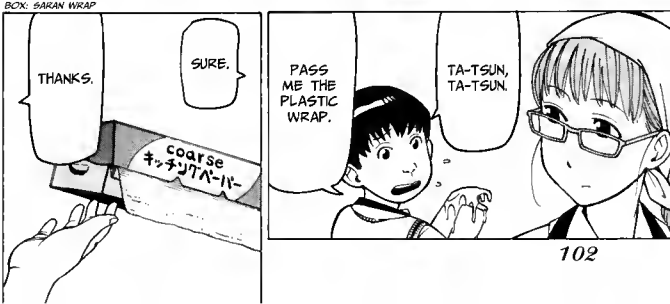
SIGN: SCHOOL KITCHEN

I'LL GET IN TROUBLE IF YOU BURN DOWN THE SCHOOL.
SHIRASAKI AND ARASHIYAMA NEED TO BE TEN TIMES MORE CAREFUL THAN EVERY-ONE ELSE.
AND TRY NOT TO CUT OR BURN YOURSELF.





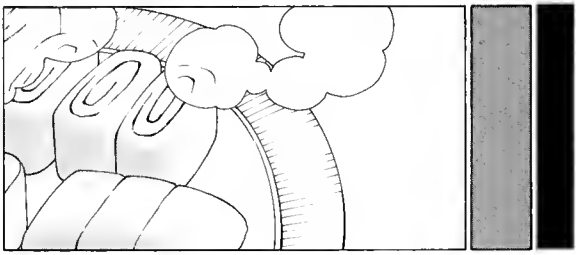
BOX: SARAN WRAP



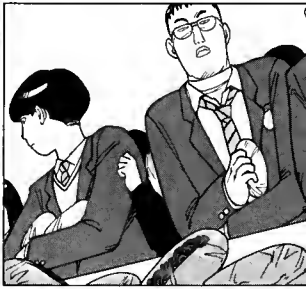
BAG: BRAVO FLOUR

NORI: DRIED SEAWEED

AONORI: ANOTHER TYPE OF DRIED SEAWEED

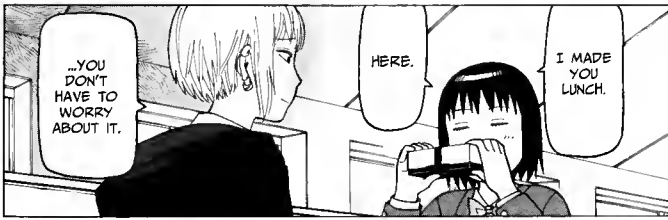


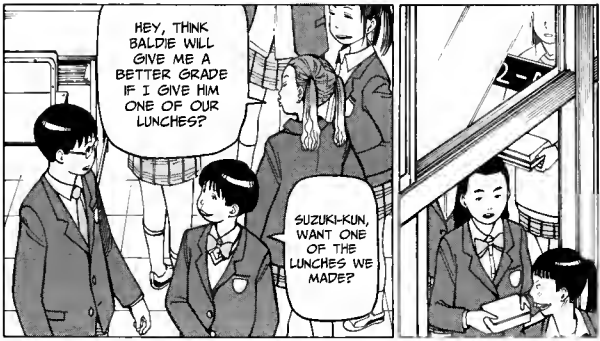
...
kitchen chicken
OH—
NOT BAD FOR HOTORI.
WHAT'S INSIDE?
ぱく MUNCH
.....
.....
...BURNT BITS.
CHAR-RED!!
ANYTHING ELSE LEFT TO DO?
WELL, KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR SPIES.
THERE WON'T BE ANY!!
YOU JUST DON'T WANT ME COOKING!
kitchen chicken



PACKAGE: BLACK ONIGIRI

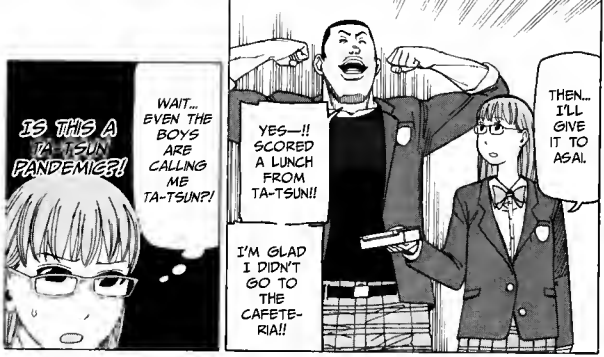
HEY, DON'T PULL ON ME—!
OH.
IT'S HOTORI.
UMMM... SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY.
ER... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR FUTURE WAS RESTING ON MY DECISION...
...BUT I WASN'T ANY HELP...
HEY... I'M NOT DESPERATE ENOUGH TO LET YOU DECIDE MY LIFE FOR ME!


I MADE YOU LUNCH.
HERE.
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.


HEY, THINK BALDIE WILL GIVE ME A BETTER GRADE IF I GIVE HIM ONE OF OUR LUNCHES?
SUZUKI-KUN, WANT ONE OF THE LUNCHES WE MADE?

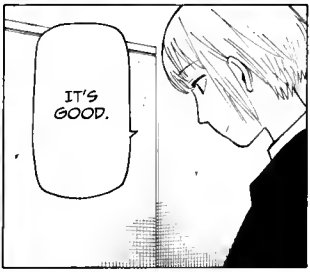
UH... CAN WE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER?
LET'S GO THE CAFETERIA!! WE NEED TO HURRY, OR THERE WON'T BE ANY ROOM!
そわ
FIDGET
そわ
FIDGET
GROWL...

LISTEN UP!! I JUST SAW SOMETHING CRAZY!!
ARASHIYAMA-SAN WAS FIDGETING AS SHE HANDED A LUNCH TO SOME BOY!!
MAYBE SHE CON-FESSED!!
WAY TO GO!!
SPEW
RE-ALLY ?!
SANA-DA-KUN!
OH... YES...
WHAT WAS THAT ?!
SANA-DA-KUN.
WOULD YOU LIKE THIS...?
TH-THANK YOU...
BUT...
SORRY, I'M...
...NOT VERY HUNGRY ...
YOU LOOK REALLY PALE. ARE YOU OKAY?!


IS THIS A TA-TSUN PANDEMIC?!
WAIT... EVEN THE BOYS ARE CALLING ME TA-TSUN?!
YES—!! SCORED A LUNCH FROM TA-TSUN!!
I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GO TO THE CAFETE-RIA!!
THEN... I'LL GIVE IT TO ASAI.

OH, YOU GUYS MADE THESE IN CLASS.
SPEAK-ING OF WHICH...
I'M GLAD THIS WASN'T 100% MADE BY YOU.
WOULD YOU PREFER ONE THAT WAS 100% MADE BY ME?

YOU'RE KIND OF PUTTING ME ON THE SPOT...
I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN EXPLAIN....
WHAT ARE THESE WORRIES YOU HAVE THAT I CAN'T UNDER-STAND?
ER...
NOTHING GOING WRONG.
NOBODY GOING AWAY...
WELL... I'M HOPING THAT THINGS WILL STAY THE SAME FOR EVERYONE IN MY FAMILY, AT SCHOOL, AND IN THE SHOPPING DISTRICT...
AND IT'S ONLY GETTING HARDER AS TIME AS PASSES.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT...

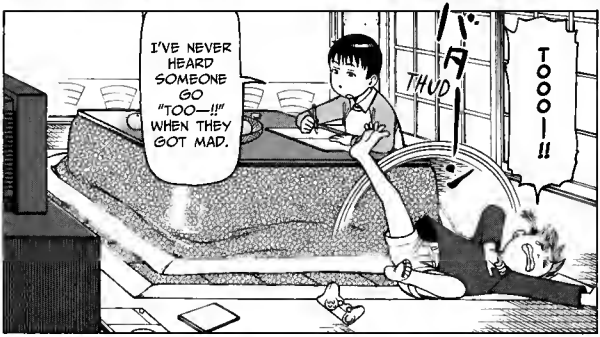


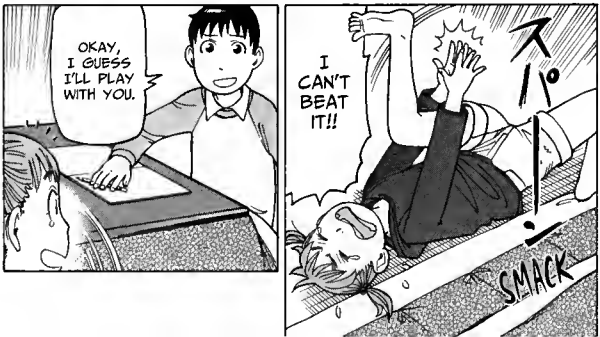
CHAPTER 55 / END

CHAPTER 56

TERRITORY

WHAT?!
AH!
IT'S THE BOSS!

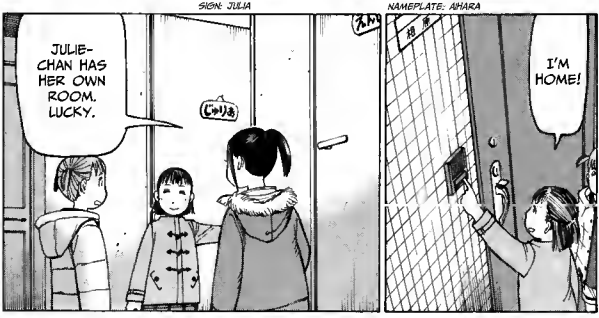

I'VE NEVER HEARD SOMEONE GO "TOO—!!" WHEN THEY GOT MAD.
バタ
THUD
TOOO—!!

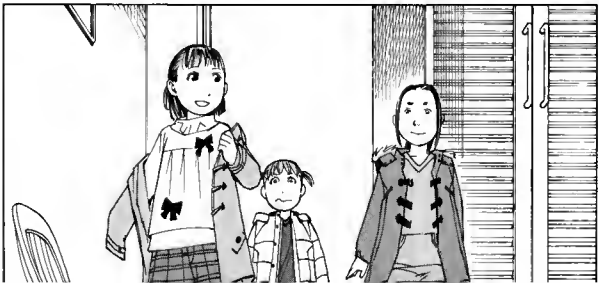

OKAY, I GUESS I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.
I CAN'T BEAT IT!!
スパ
SMACK

OKAY... WE CAN DO THIS!!
TIME FOR REVENGE! WHO'S DYING NOW?!
SMASH
ドゴズガン
BOOM
RAT-A-TAT-A-TAT
ドドド

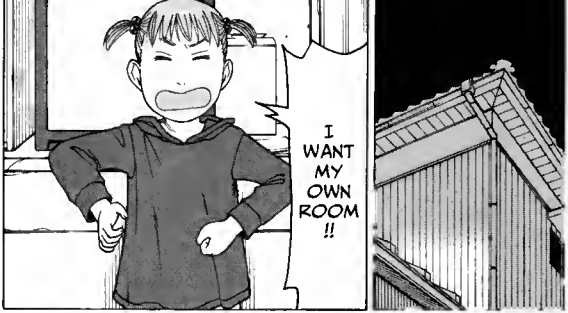
SIGN: JULIA

NAMEPLATE: AIHARA

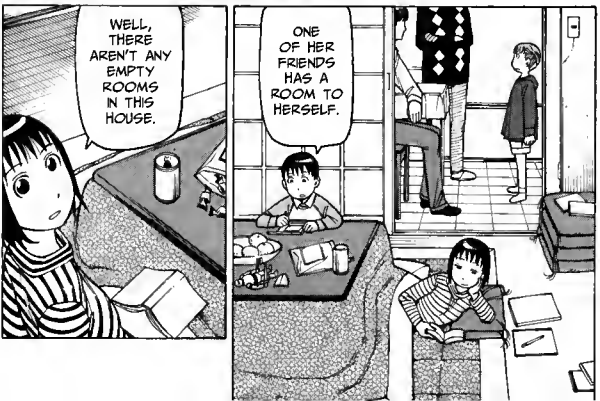




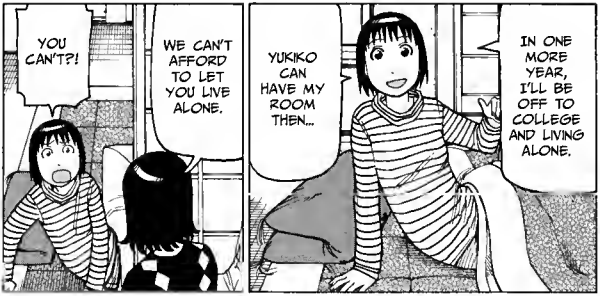
THAT'S A CAPYBARA STUFFED ANIMAL.
OH, IT'S A DOG!
JUMP
ビク
.....
.....
I'LL SEE IF THERE ARE ANY SNACKS.
IS EVERY-ONE OKAY WITH HOT CHOCO-LATE?


I WANT MY OWN ROOM !!

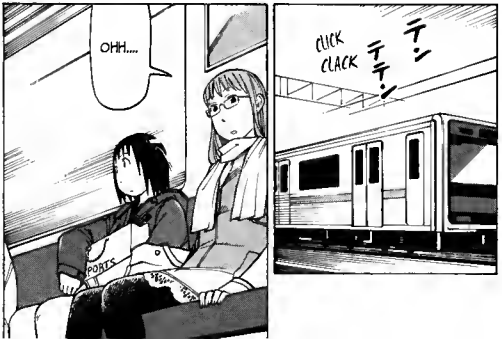
BOX: DOG FOOD
I WASN'T EXPECTING YUKIKO TO START THIS EARLY.
AH... IT FINALLY HAPPENED...


WELL, THERE AREN'T ANY EMPTY ROOMS IN THIS HOUSE.
ONE OF HER FRIENDS HAS A ROOM TO HERSELF.

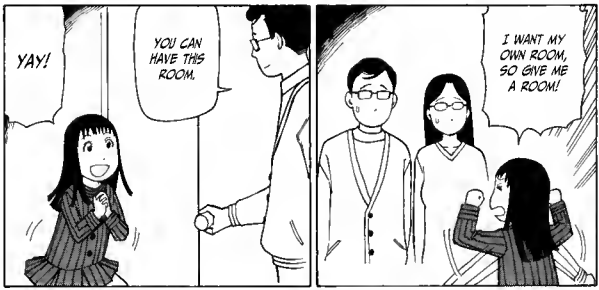
MOM'S ROOM WENT TO TAKERU...
MY ROOM WENT TO HOTORI...
SO IF WE GO IN ORDER...
CLACK
MARE
SOBER BEER
...WE CAN GIVE HOTORI'S ROOM TO YUKIKO!
THAT'S CRAZY TALK!!
"MIGHT MAKES RIGHT," AS ALWAYS.
YOU CAN'T USE FAMOUS SAYINGS TO CONVINCE ME!
...OH? NO, WAIT...

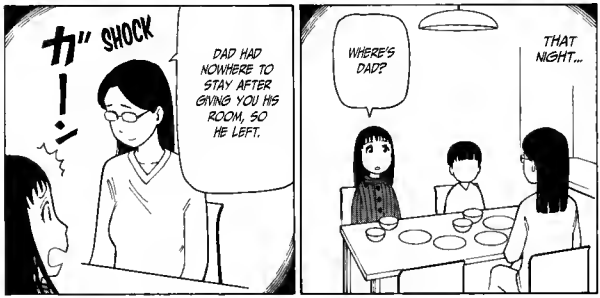

IN ONE MORE YEAR, I'LL BE OFF TO COLLEGE AND LIVING ALONE.
YUKIKO CAN HAVE MY ROOM THEN...
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET YOU LIVE ALONE.
YOU CAN'T?!

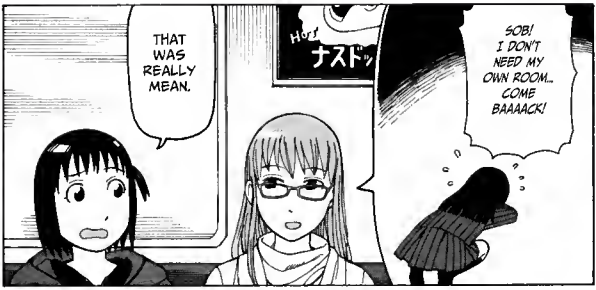
I WANNA TRY LIVING ALONE —!!
GIVE ME A ROOM!!
DON'T COM-PLICATE THINGS!

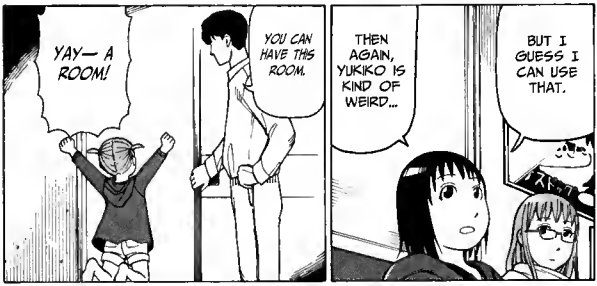

テン
CLICK CLACK テテン
OHH....

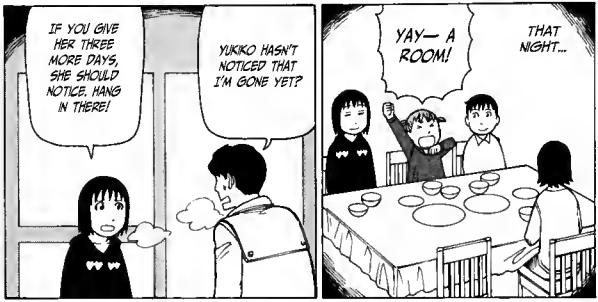
AD: EGGPLANT HOT DOG






THAT WAS REALLY MEAN.
Ho!
ナスドッ
SOB! I DON'T NEED MY OWN ROOM... COME BAAAACK!

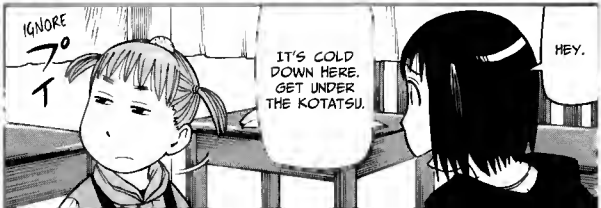

YAY— A ROOM!
YOU CAN HAVE THIS ROOM.
THEN AGAIN, YUKIKO IS KIND OF WEIRD...
BUT I GUESS I CAN USE THAT.


IF YOU GIVE HER THREE MORE DAYS, SHE SHOULD NOTICE. HANG IN THERE!
YUKIKO HASN'T NOTICED THAT I'M GONE YET?
YAY— A ROOM!
THAT NIGHT...

THREE MORE DAYS, AND SHE'LL HAVE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME.
...IT'S POSSIBLE.
YOU MUST BE EXAG-GERATING.
NOPE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW BAD YUKIKO CAN GET.
SPORTS MAXIMUM
I'M HOME!
HUH?
WHERE DID YUKIKO GO?
SPORTS MAXIMU

THUMP
ゴガン
WELL, SHE PROBABLY FORGOT ABOUT WANTING A ROOM ALREADY.

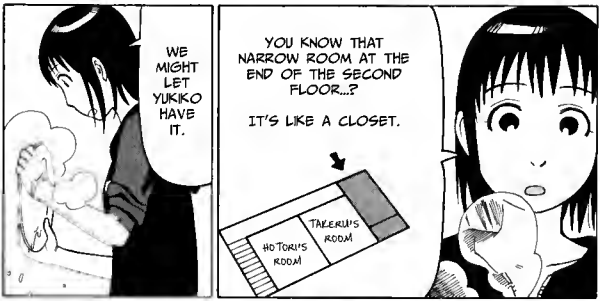
THE TABLE MOVED. IS IT A POLTER-GEIST?!
MY ROOM HAS A LOW CEILING...


IGNORE
プイ
IT'S COLD DOWN HERE. GET UNDER THE KOTATSU.
HEY.

YOU CAN'T CHASE SOMEONE OUT OF THEIR HOME.
HEH HEH HEH.
IF YOU TAKE UP RESI-DENCE HERE, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT DINNER.
WHAT? YOU'RE TREATING ME AS A GUEST?
WANT A BANANA?
TAKERU...! YOU DIDN'T NEED TO TELL HER THAT.
THANKS FOR THE FOOD.

BOX: SOYMILK - SESAME SEED BLACK VINEGAR

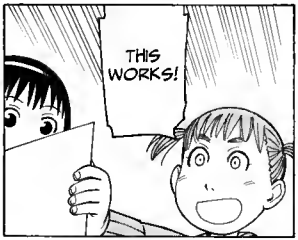
MAN... YUKIKO'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.

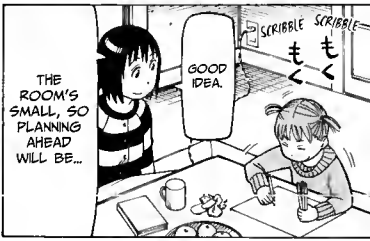

WE MIGHT LET YUKIKO HAVE IT.
YOU KNOW THAT NARROW ROOM AT THE END OF THE SECOND FLOOR...?
IT'S LIKE A CLOSET.
TAKERU'S ROOM
HOTORI'S ROOM

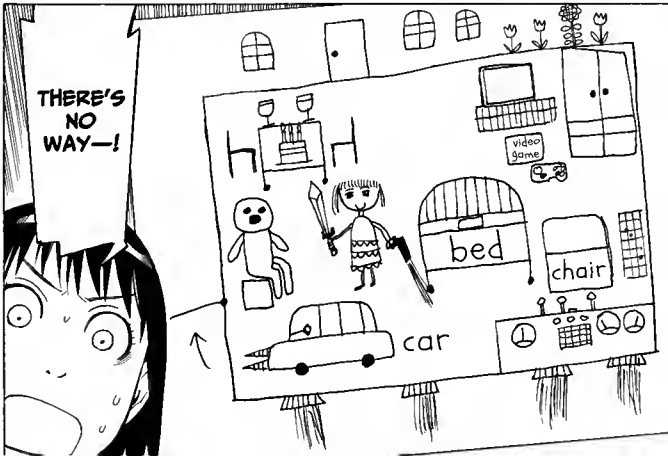
LET'S GIVE IT A TRY.
THAT'S TRUE...

FLASH
SO THIS ROOM IS NOW YOUR ROOM.
YAAAY!!
MY OWN ROOOOM!!!!
THERE'S STILL STUFF LIKE MOM'S CLOTHES ...
...SO IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE...
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?!

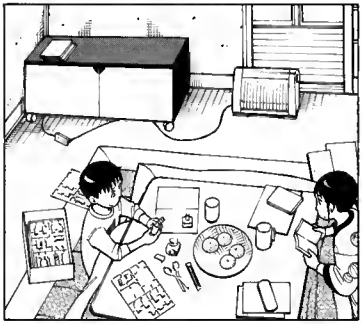
I'LL DRAW A PICTURE OF HOW MY ROOM WILL LOOK!


THIS WORKS!


THE ROOM'S SMALL, SO PLANNING AHEAD WILL BE...
GOOD IDEA.
SCRIBBLE
もく
SCRIBBLE
もく

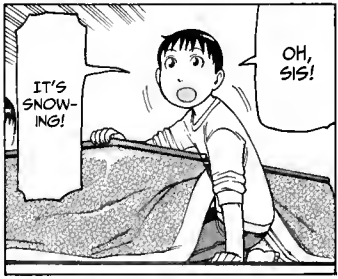

THERE'S NO WAY—!
video game
bed
chair
car

WHO IS THIS?
BUT FOR NOW, I HAVE ONE THING TO SAY.
THERE'S SO MUCH WRONG HERE THAT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START...
WHAT IS THAT? SOME KIND OF INDIAN GOD...?
CAPYNABA
CAPY-NABA... CAPY-NABA...
CAPY-NABA.
YOU WANT YOUR ROOM TO FLY?
...CAN NEVER BE TRUSTED... LIKE MAMON.
YOUR STO-RIES...
IT WAS AT JULIE-CHAN'S HOUSE.

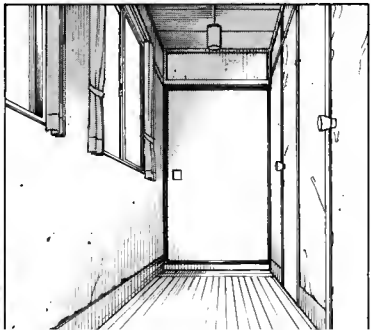


SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

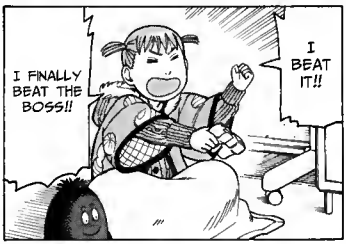
YUKIKO MUST BE COLD UP THERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. NO WONDER IT'S COLD.

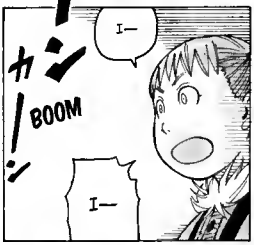

IT'S SNOW-ING!
OH, SIS!

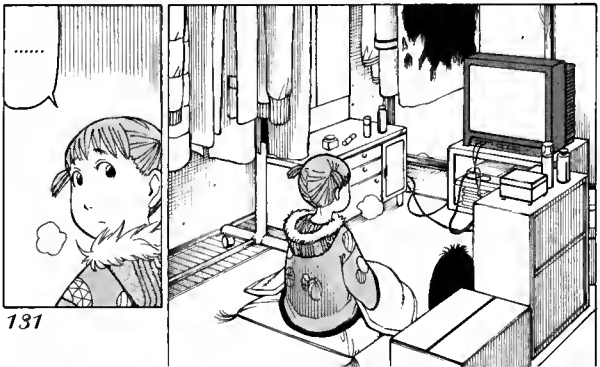
WHOO!!

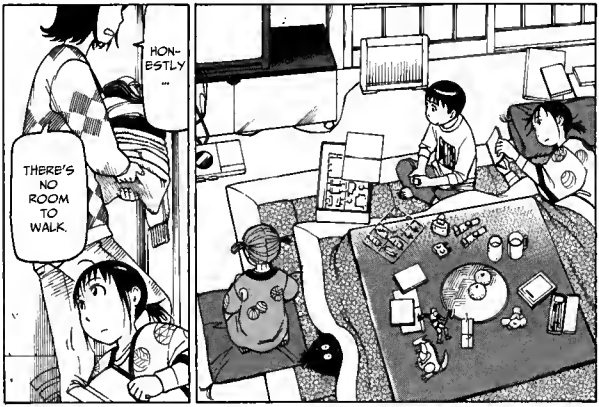


KA-BOOM!
ドカーン
CRACKLE
ドカドカドカ
CRACKLE
CRACKLE


I FINALLY BEAT THE BOSS!!
I BEAT IT!!


I—
カーン!
BOOM
I—


.....

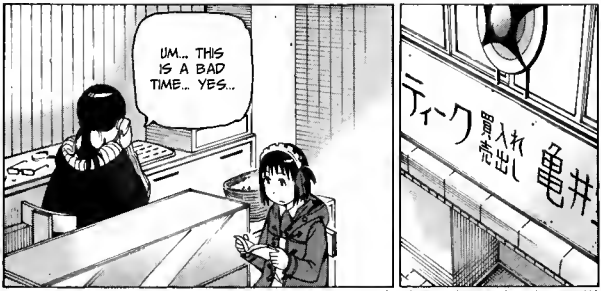

HON-
ESTLY
...
THERE'S
NO
ROOM
TO
WALK.

WHY DON'T
YOU GO
BACK TO
YOUR OWN
ROOMS?
IT'S
TOO
COLD.
I CAN'T
GET
PAST THIS
PART!!

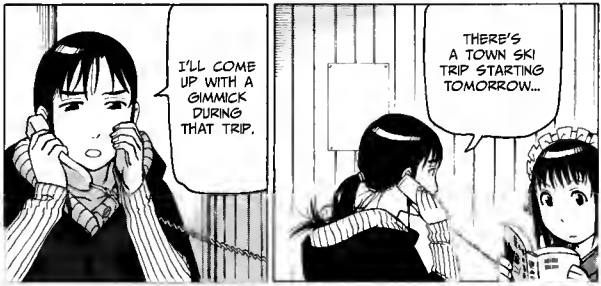
DOTERA

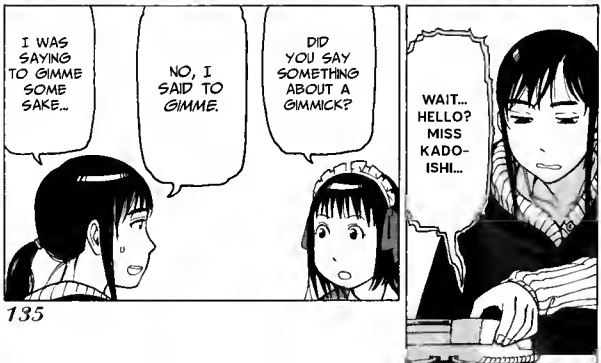
A WARM GARMENT THAT IS USEFUL FROM WINTER TO EARLY SPRING

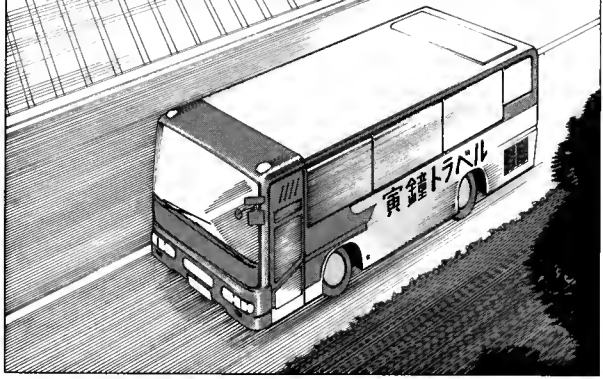
JOSEPHINE THE KNOW-IT-ALL



SIGN: KAMEIDOU ANTIQUES (WE BUY AND SELL)





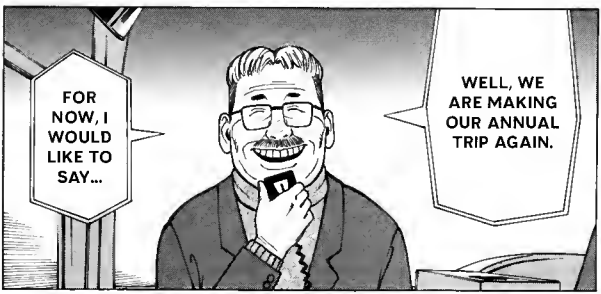


BUS: TRABELL BUS

CHAPTER 57

SOREMACHI SUSPENSE THEATER II

MAIDEN ATTACKED BY BLADE OF ICE? MURDER WEAPON LOST ON A SNOWY MOUNTAIN



I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU LOOKED DIFFERENT.
YOU AREN'T WEARING GLASSES!
WE'RE GOING TO USE GOGGLES, SO I'M WEARING CONTACTS.

GLASSES... EYESIGHT... HMM... THAT WON'T WORK.
FOR WHAT?

NOTHING...

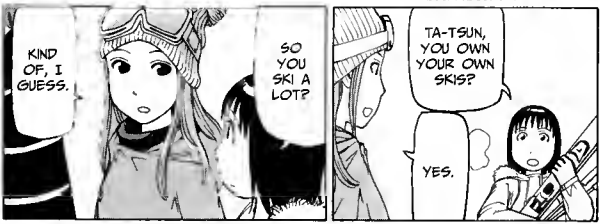
ARE MY GLASSES REALLY SO PROMINENT?!
HOTORI-CHAN, IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME SKIING?
I WENT SKIING ONCE WHEN I VISITED MY MOM'S RELATIVES.
ANYONE IN THE BACK NEED SOMETHING TO DRINK?
UH... PLEASE LISTEN TO ME.

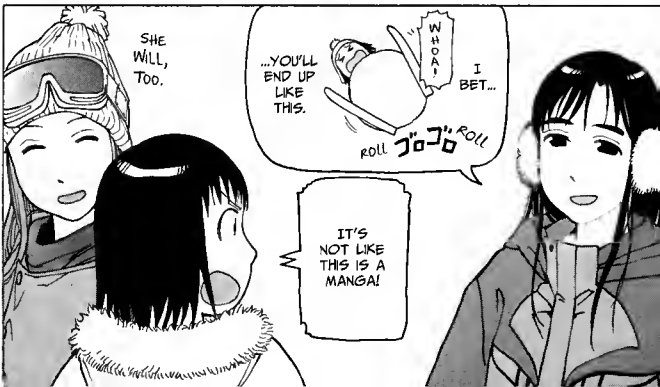
WHOA—! A SNOWY MOUNTAIN!
SNOW!
BRRRR... IT'S COLD...
THE SNOW HERE FEELS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!
DIFFERENT SNOW... DIFFERENT LOCATION... TOO WEAK.
YOU'RE GOING TO TRIP, HOTORI-CHAN!

CRUNCH
ザギュ
IT'S LIKE CANDY.
YEAH... OR SOME OTHER SNACK... I WONDER WHAT KIND...?
CRUNCH
ザク
ザク
CRUNCH
CRACK-ERS?
IT'S NOT THAT HARD.
WA-FERS?
HMM...
MAYBE PIE CRUST?
CRUNCH
ザク
ザク
CRUNCH
OOOH... PIE CRUST SOUNDS RIGHT, UMEKO-CHAN.
IT'S TOSHI-KO...
I KNOW!
IT'S LIKE STALE COTTON CANDY!!
NEVER HAD IT BEFORE!!
PUT YOUR STUFF IN YOUR ROOMS SO THAT WE CAN GO RENT SKIS...

I'M 155 CENTI-METERS TALL.
UH... I NEED TO KNOW YOUR FOOT SIZE, NOT YOUR HEIGHT...
MY LEGS ARE... UM...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY IT.
GRAN, YOU RENTED A SNOW-BOARD?!
SIGN: TSURUTSURU SKI RESORT/ RENTAL
弦鶴スキー場
貸しスキー

155CM: ABOUT 5' 1"





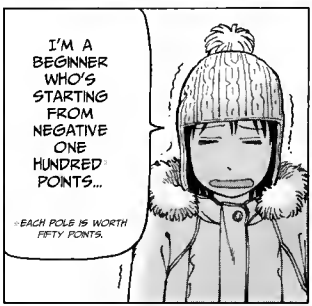
WHEW— WE MADE IT ON THE SKI LIFT.
WHIRR
ゴン
WHIRR
ゴンゴン
WHIRR...
TH- THERE'S SNOT RUNNING FROM MY NOSE!!
WHAT'S WRONG?
ACK! SHOOT!
PBFT...
HOO I' YO'SHEH!
(DO IT YOURSELF!)
HELP...
AT'S ROSH... HERE HA HISSHU.
(THAT'S GROSS... HERE'S A TISSUE.)

HONK!
SNIFF.
I DROPPED MY POLES!!
MAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING..?
AH!
SOB! WHAT DO I DO...?
THAT WAS DANGEROUS.. YOU COULD HAVE SERIOUSLY HURT SOMEONE WITH THOSE...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE...
WHAT? YOU DROPPED YOUR POLES?!

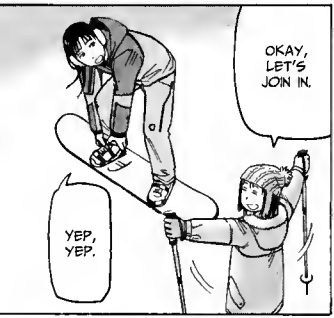
I'VE GOT THIS HUGE HANDICAP NOW...

NO, THAT'S INSANE.
PANT PANT
CARRY ME TO WHERE MY POLES ARE!
ズリ
SLIDE
ズリ
SLIP


I'M A BEGINNER WHO'S STARTING FROM NEGATIVE ONE HUNDRED* POINTS...
*EACH POLE IS WORTH FIFTY POINTS.

"BLOCK-HEAD" WAS A LITTLE HARSH!
ER, DON'T START FLIRTING.
HEY, YOU'RE STEPPING ON MY SNOWBOARD WITH YOUR SKIS...
YOU'RE A MAN. YOU SHOULD BE WILLING TO HELP ME!
YEAH, YOU BLOCK-HEAD!
SOME-WHERE AROUND THE MIDDLE.
WHERE DID YOU DROP THE POLES?
HERE, YOU CAN USE MINE!
THAT WASN'T DIRECTED AT SANADA-KUN...
OH, WAIT...
CRUNCH!
HUH? OH... SURE...
SANADA-KUN, WILL YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR THE POLES?

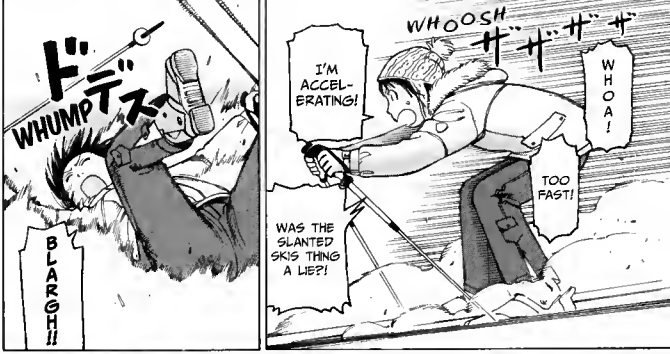
WOW, SHE CAN SKI WITHOUT POLES.


OKAY, LET'S JOIN IN.
YEP, YEP.

サズ GLIDE
SWISH
サーッ

ズズ SLIIIDE
HUUUH?!
...HUH?

...I WON'T ACCELER-ATE.
IF I KEEP MY SKIS SLANTED...
ズズズズ SLIIIDE

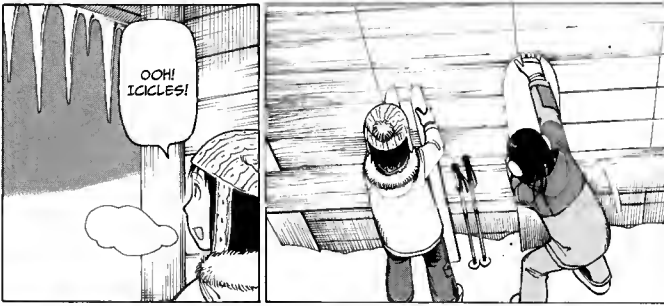

WHUMP
ドデス
BLARGH!!
WHOOSH
ザザザザ
I'M ACCEL-ERATING!
WHOA!
TOO FAST!
WAS THE SLANTED SKIS THING A LIE?!

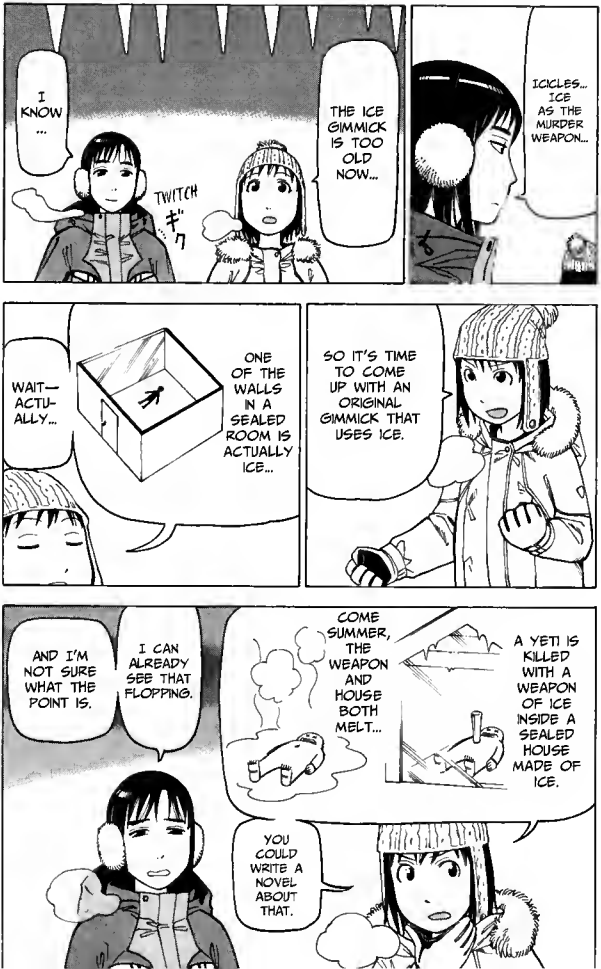
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO BE LAUGHING AT ME.
AHAHA... "BLARGH"...

WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAYS TO GO...
YEAH... SNOW-BOARDING IS REALLY HARD...

BRILLIANT, MY DEAR WATSON.
GOAL
IT'S DANGEROUS TO SLIDE STRAIGHT DOWN THE SLOPE, SO WE SHOULD ZIGZAG TO KEEP OUR SPEED DOWN.
WHOA! I'M GONNA RUN INTO YOU! MOVE!
スソソソ
FLAP FLAP
WHOAAA... WHOAAA...
THIS IS THE ONLY DIRECTION I CAN MOVE...
SHIZUKA-NEECHAN, YOU KEEP MOVING BACK-WARDS.
WHA—?! IT'S OLD ARAI! THAT DOES IT!!
ニャアッ
WHOOSH
'SCUSE ME—

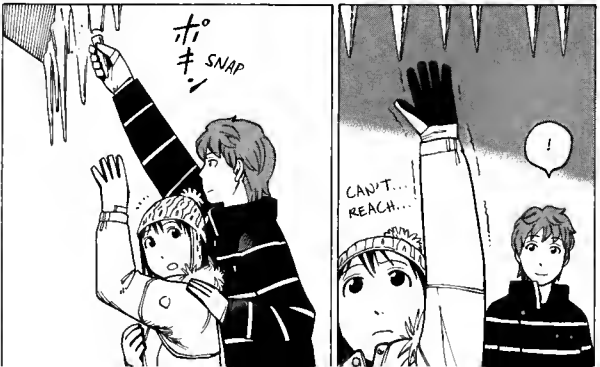
SIGN: ROOM AND BOARD / YAMAGO LODGE



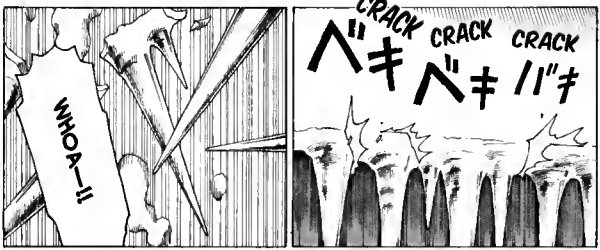

I KNOW...
TWITCH
ギク
THE ICE GIMMICK IS TOO OLD NOW...
ICICLES... ICE AS THE MURDER WEAPON...
WAIT— ACTU- ALLY...
ONE OF THE WALLS IN A SEALED ROOM IS ACTUALLY ICE...
SO IT'S TIME TO COME UP WITH AN ORIGINAL GIMMICK THAT USES ICE.
AND I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE POINT IS.
I CAN ALREADY SEE THAT FLOPPING.
COME SUMMER, THE WEAPON AND HOUSE BOTH MELT...
A YETI IS KILLED WITH A WEAPON OF ICE INSIDE A SEALED HOUSE MADE OF ICE.
YOU COULD WRITE A NOVEL ABOUT THAT.

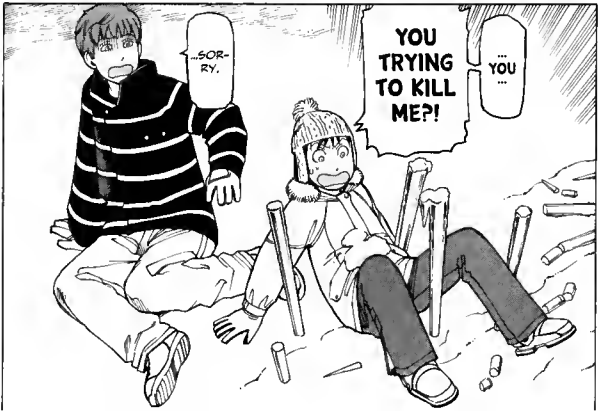
WEL-
COME
BACK.
CRUNCH
CRUNCH

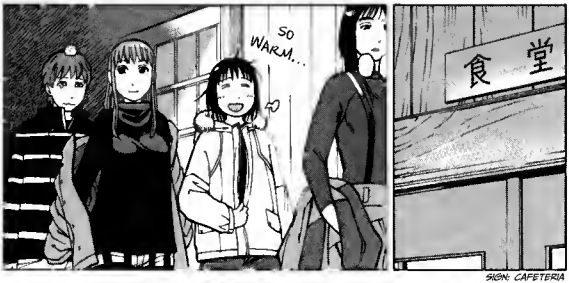
AND IT'S
TA-TSUN.
I MEAN...
TATSUNO.
THE
INTER-
MEDIATE
COURSE.
WE DIDN'T
RUN INTO
EACH
OTHER
AGAIN...
WHERE
WERE
YOU
GUYS,
TA-CHAN?


ポキン
SNAP
CAN'T...
REACH...
!

THERE.
THAT'S IT!


WHOA—!!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
ベキ
ベキ
バキ


...SORRY.
YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
... YOU ...

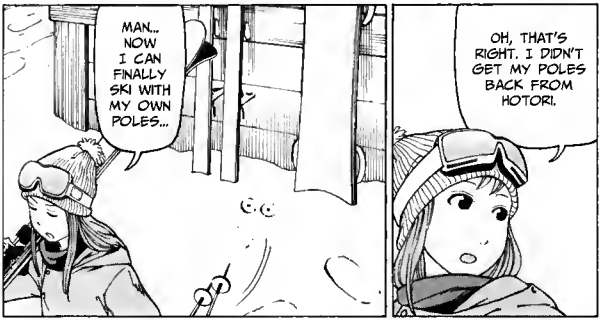


SIGN: CAFETERIA

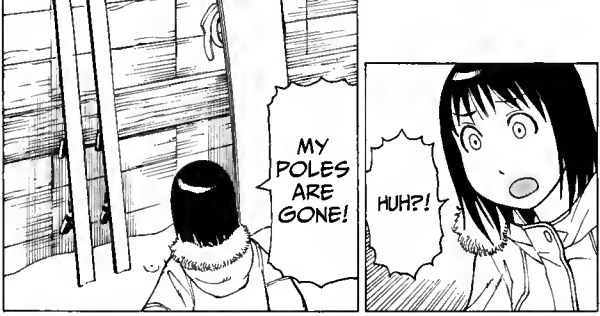
BAG: TRAIL MIX / CAN: STAR

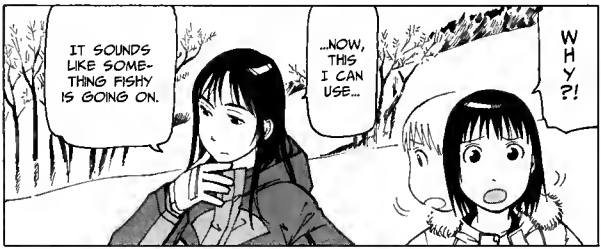
NO WONDER I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF YOU...
WHY ARE YOU EVEN HERE?
I'LL SKI TOMOR-ROW.
I'LL BE GLIDING.
GLIDING INTO A TREE.
...AH...
BWAAAH HA HA HA!
MAN... I DON'T WANT TO GET OLD...
WHEW.
SHIZUKA-CHAN, COME DRINK WITH US. WE EVEN GOT LOCAL BEER.
OH...! SAKE.
BOTTLE: FER MENT

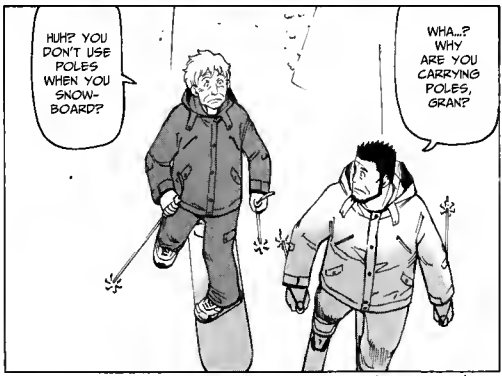
BUILDING: YAMAGO LODGE



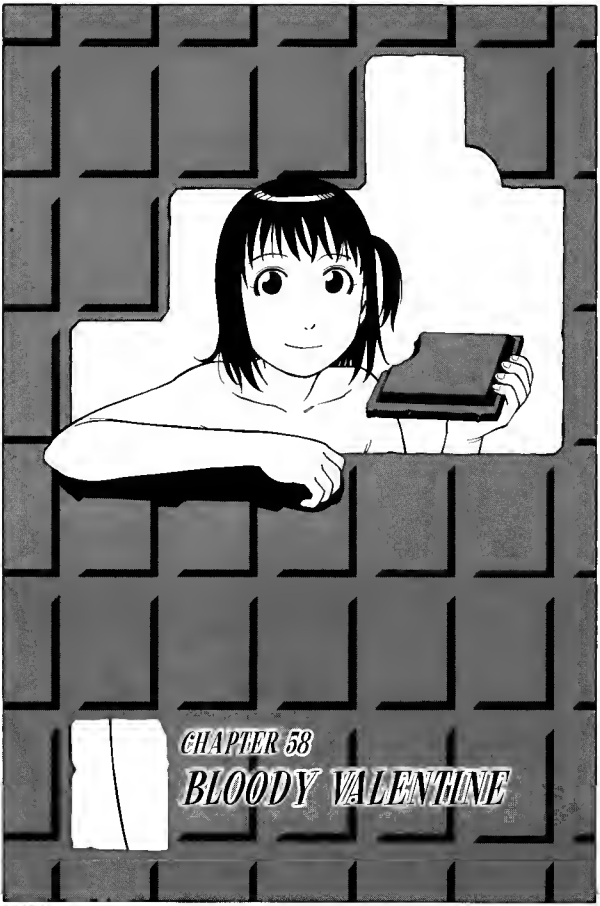
CLICK
ガチャ
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
I CAN'T HOLD MY LIQUOR ANYMORE...
HURRY!
EVERY-ONE'S ALREADY LEFT!
YOU'RE SO CHEERFUL. MY BACK AND MY BUTT ARE KILLING ME...
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING BACK-WARDS!
CLICK
ガチャ
HEYA.
TWO SUNNY DAYS IN A ROW.
BE-CAUSE I'M A SUNNY GIRL.





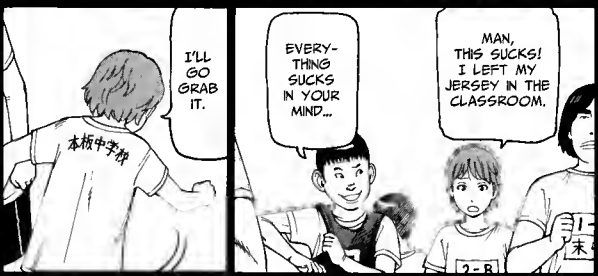


CHAPTER 57 / END


CHAPTER 58
BLOODY VALENTINE

SIGN: MOTOYA MIDDLE SCHOOL

SHIRTS: MIKAMI, SHINADA, SUZUKI



SHIRT: MOTOYA MIDDLE SCHOOL

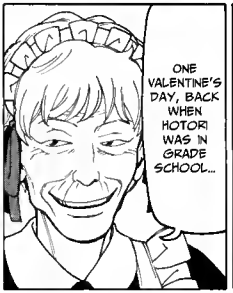
2-B
THIS SUCKS...
ARASHI-YAMA...
OH, THAT'S MY JERSEY.
SQUEEZE
ギュッ
HUH?!

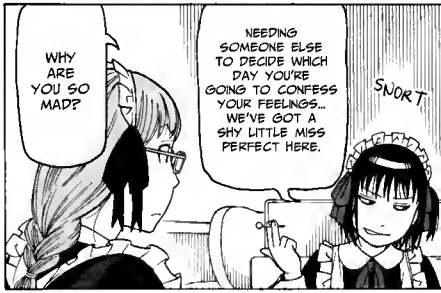
SLAM
SO THAT MEANS SHE'S...
POUND
POUND
POUND

AHHH...
メイド
喫茶
シーサイド
SIGN: MAID CAFE SEASIDE
WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF RAW FOOD, RAW CARAMEL AND RAW SPRING ROLLS ARE ALSO GOOD.
SO IS RAW PASTA.
IT'S GOOD! RAW CHOCOLATE IS SO GOOD!!
CHOMP
もむもむん
CHOMP
CHOMP
CALM DOWN.
SENBEI: A BAKED RICE CRACKER / MOCHI: A SOFT, STICKY RICE CAKE
SHE'S RIGHT... IT IS A MOCHI.
SPEAKING OF CHOCOLATE, THAT REMINDS ME.
HOW DOES A RAW SENBEI SOUND?
WE COULD MAKE A FORTUNE BY SELLING A NEW LINE OF RAW FOODS!
THAT'S JUST A MOCHI

VALENTINE'S DAY?
...STUPID.

VALENTINE'S DAY IS COMING UP.


ONE VALENTINE'S DAY, BACK WHEN HOTORI WAS IN GRADE SCHOOL...

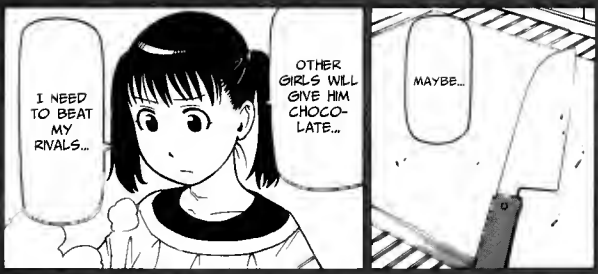

WHY ARE YOU SO MAD?
NEEDING SOMEONE ELSE TO DECIDE WHICH DAY YOU'RE GOING TO CONFESS YOUR FEELINGS... WE'VE GOT A SHY LITTLE MISS PERFECT HERE.
SNORT

...SO WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY ABOUT VALENTINE'S DAY?

YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL THEM THAT!!
...SHE WASN'T ABLE TO GIVE CHOCOLATE TO THE BOY SHE LIKED.

SUCH AS HOT CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF COFFEE.
WELL... I WAS THINKING THAT WE COULD DO SOMETHING SPECIAL AT SEASIDE.
WE CAN SERVE PEOPLE CURRY...
USING CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF KETCHUP ON OMELET RICE?
...THAT'S ACTUALLY CHOCO-LATE...
WE'LL LOSE ALL OUR CUSTOM-ERS!
AND YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE A GOOD IDEA...
LIKE THAT?

SIGN: GARBAGE SCHEDULE


I NEED TO BEAT MY RIVALS...
OTHER GIRLS WILL GIVE HIM CHOCO-LATE...
MAYBE...

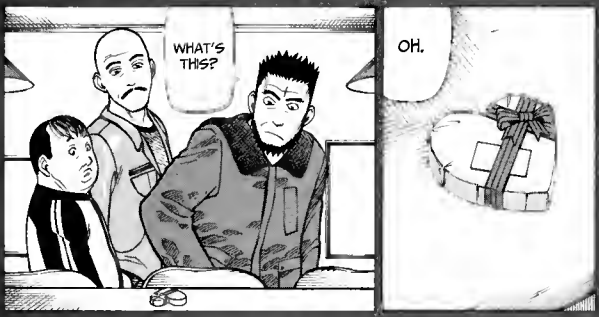
I NEED ADD SOME KIND OF KICK SO THAT I LEAVE AN IMPRESSION.
SECOND IS THE SAME AS LAST.
I HAVE TO BE FIRST.

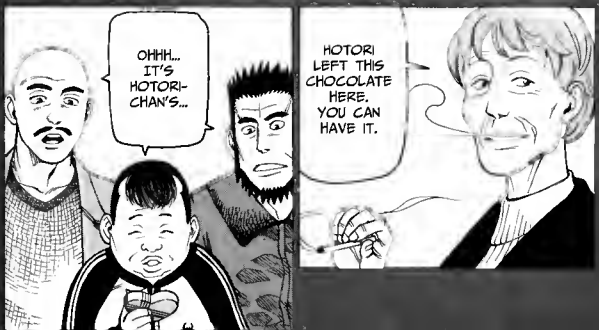
SETSUBUN: A FESTIVAL CELEBRATING THE BEGINNING OF SPRING IN EARLY FEBRUARY. IT FEATURES A RITUAL OF THROWING BEANS TO CLEANSE AND DRIVE AWAY EVIL.

RAKUGAN: HARD, SWEET CAKES PRESSED TO TAKE VARIOUS DECORATIVE SHAPES.

HEHEH... I'M A COWARD.
I MADE CHOCO-LATE, BUT I DIDN'T GIVE IT TO HIM...
COFFEE
SIGN: COFFEE SEA...
I DON'T REALLY LIKE CHOCO-LATE.
YOU CAN HAVE THIS CHOCOLATE.
THANKS, GRAN...
HERE, HAVE SOME CURRY.
YOU GET DRUNK ON CURRY.
IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT, I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEM GIVING HIM CHOCO-LATE.
IT WOULD BE AWKWARD IF THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT...
BESIDES, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS...
CLATTER
カチャ

'SUP.


WHAT'S THIS?
OH.

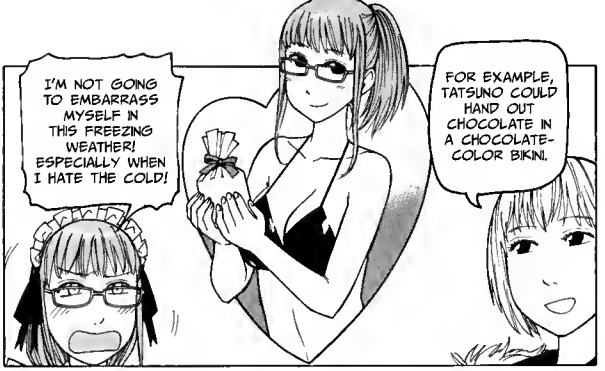

OHHH... IT'S HOTORI-CHAN'S...
HOTORI LEFT THIS CHOCOLATE HERE. YOU CAN HAVE IT.

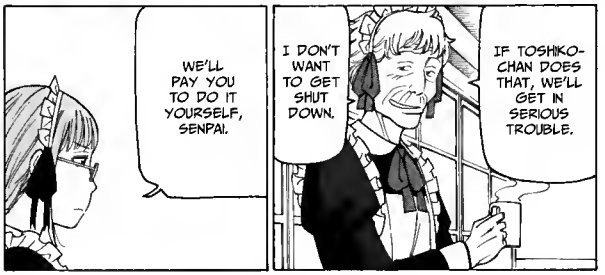
I'LL BE LEAVING, THEN.
WELL...
SLIP

WANNA MAKE THIS A BLOODY VALEN-TINE?!!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL?!!
ガス
WHACK

ROCK...
PAPER...
LET'S USE ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS TO DECIDE.

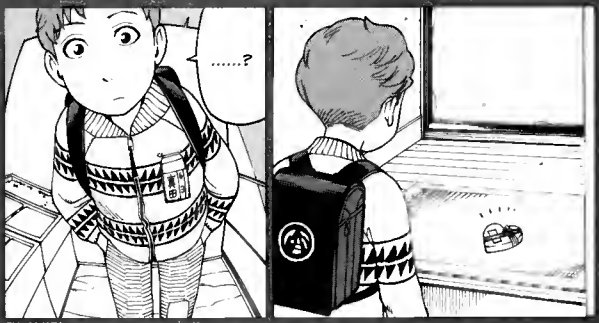
SO, BASICALLY, YOU WANT TO HOLD AN EVENT FOR VALENTINE'S DAY? WHY DON'T YOU GIVE YOUR CUSTOMERS CHOCOLATE?
FOR FREE?
SURE. IT COUNTS AS A PROMOTION, SO YOUR GOAL ISN'T TO MAKE A KILLING.
IG-NOR-ING
THERE'S STILL TIME TO ADVER-TISE...
YOU THINK PEOPLE WILL COME FOR THE CHOCO-LATE?
MAKE A KILL-ING?!
BEATS ME.
THAT DEPENDS ON HOW HARD YOU TRY.
SO WE GIVE THEM CHOCOLATE THAT'S ACTUALLY CURRY?
CAN YOU STOP TRYING TO FAKE PEOPLE OUT?


I'M NOT GOING TO EMBARRASS MYSELF IN THIS FREEZING WEATHER! ESPECIALLY WHEN I HATE THE COLD!
FOR EXAMPLE, TATSUNO COULD HAND OUT CHOCOLATE IN A CHOCOLATE-COLOR BIKINI.


WE'LL PAY YOU TO DO IT YOURSELF, SENPAI.
I DON'T WANT TO GET SHUT DOWN.
IF TOSHIKO-CHAN DOES THAT, WE'LL GET IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

SHRIEK!
IF SENPAI DOES THAT, SHE'LL LOOK LIKE A FLAT BAR OF CHOCOLATE!
HA HA HA!

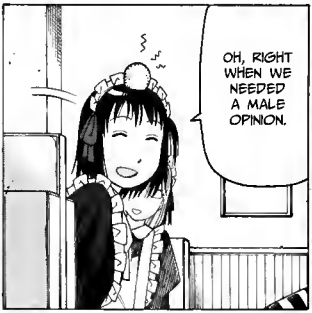
SIGN: SANADA'S FRESH FISH



FN: SANADA

FORM... SHAPE... CONDITION...
UH... FORM...
ジーニス英和辞典
BOOK: JENIS ENGLISH-JAPANESE DICTIONARY
INCIDENTALLY, HOTORI MEANT TO PUT "FROM ARASHIYAMA."
DUDE... I'M GETTING CONFUSED...
ARASHIYAMA'S SHAPE??
CONDITION? CONDITION ARASHIYAMA?
AH!
RUSTLE
カサガサ
RUSTLE
IS IT BECAUSE IT'S VALENTINE'S DAY?
ANYWAY, ARASHIYAMA MUST HAVE DROPPED THIS OFF.
SIGN: DON'T FORGET TO AIR OUT THE ROOM!

YIKES!!
THAT MASK IS SUPER SCARY—!!
POUND
POUND
ドキドキ
WHAT IS THIS...?
POUND
POUND
POUND
ドッドッドッ
WAIT... WHY DID SHE GIVE ME CHOCO-LATE?
SHAPED LIKE A HEART...
DOES THAT MEAN THIS HEART REPRESENTS THE FORM OF ARASHI-YAMA'S HEART?!
WAIT... IS MY HEART RACING?!


OH, RIGHT WHEN WE NEEDED A MALE OPINION.

カラン
カラン
RATTLE
RATTLE

HUH?

...WOULD YOU COME OUT HERE FOR IT?
HEY, IF I OFFERED TO GIVE YOU CHOCOLATE ON VALENTINE'S DAY...

ER.
YEAH... I GUESS...
AS LONG AS THERE ISN'T A MASK ON IT.
MASK?
...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
SOME KIND OF INTEL-LECTUAL JOKE?
.....
!
HOW DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!

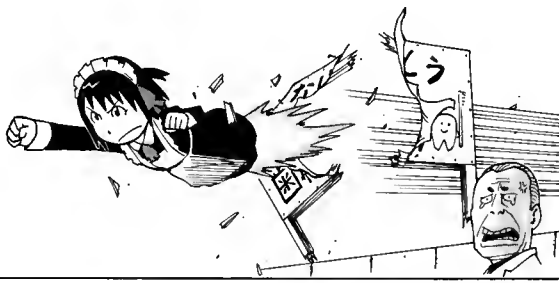
CHAPTER 58 / END

AFTERWORD

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH VOLUME 7, BUT I WENT TO A MAID CAFE THE OTHER DAY FOR AN IMPORTANT MEETING. I WAS VERY NERVOUS ABOUT THE MEETING, SO I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT THIS WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO A MAID CAFE UNTIL I WAS ALREADY OUTSIDE. MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE VOLUME 1, WHERE I MENTIONED I'D NEVER BEEN TO A MAID CAFE BEFORE. NOW THAT I'VE HAD THE EXPERIENCE, I MUST SAY THAT IT WAS NOTHING LIKE WHAT I'VE SEEN ON TV. THE MAIDS WORE LONG SKIRTS AND THE CAFE HAD A QUIET ATMOSPHERE. AND NOBODY SAID "WELCOME BACK, MASTER" OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

...IN FACT, IT WAS QUITE SIMILAR TO SEASIDE...?

WELL, THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE AN INSULT.



SIGN: CAVITIES? NAITOU DENTAL CLINIC

SPECIAL THANKS

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